

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How big an impact
the closing of
Hollywood Theaters
is on the quality of life
on the islands?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Penguin Suit

What's black and white and warm all over? A penguin in a wetsuit, naturally.

NATION...Page 10



Earth Week

"The Earth needs help," said 10-year-old Jared Rymza.

YOUNGSTYLE...Page 18



3 Years

Wesley Snipes was sentenced to three years in prison on tax charges Thursday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Review urged in passage of Kannat Tabla bill. **PAGE 2**

Rota agencies clean up beach of shipwreck debris. **PAGE 5**

Yana, Atalig re-arrested

DOC wrongfully released 2 on the day judge threw them back to jail

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Police re-arrested yesterday afternoon lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig after the two were "wrongfully released" by the Department of Corrections Thursday morning.

Police picked up Yana and Atalig at their respective homes on Saipan after Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo issued yesterday a bench warrant for their arrest.

Govendo issued the warrant after learning that, after he remanded Yana and Atalig into custody Thursday morning, DOC immediately released them.

Govendo directed DPS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita to arrest the two lawyers and bring them to DOC. He imposed a \$1,288,500 bail each for the lawyers' release.

Yana and Atalig were brought before

See **YANA** on Page 4

Saipan gaming bill shot down—again

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has killed the fourth and latest Saipan gaming bill.

With 16 no votes and two yes votes, the lower chamber rejected the proposal to allow casino gaming at the former La Fiesta shopping mall.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta and Rep. Stanley T. Torres voted in favor of the proposal. Representatives Justo Quitugua and Raymond Palacios were present, but did not vote.

The measure, titled the "Video Gaming and Entertainment Card Games Act of 2008," was

See **SAIPAN** on Page 4

Many states appear to be in recession

By **ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The finances of many states have deteriorated so badly that they appear to be in a recession, regardless of whether that's true for the nation as a whole, a survey of all 50 state fiscal directors concludes.

The situation looks even worse for the fiscal year that begins July

See **MANY** on Page 4

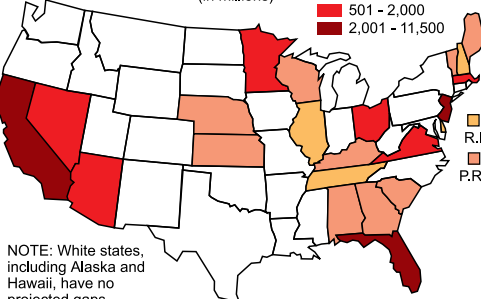
ON THE NET

NCSL: <http://www.ncsl.org>

State economic conditions worsen

Twenty-three states and Puerto Rico are projecting budget caps estimated at \$26 billion for fiscal year 2009.

Projected budget gaps for FY 2009 (in millions)



NOTE: White states, including Alaska and Hawaii, have no projected gaps.

SOURCE: National Conference of State Legislatures

AP



PROCLAMATION SIGNING

Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez joins Rep. Ray Yumul, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde K. Norita, officers and staff shortly after the 2008 CNMI Police Week, EMS Week, EMSC Day, Safe Boating Week and Click It or Ticket Mobilization proclamation signing ceremony at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Friday morning. See related story on Page 3.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Local



Tina Palacios, Sorensen Media Group general manager, turns over the check to Hopwood principal Christine Tudela-Masga as the students cheer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sorensen Media Group donates \$2.76K to HJHS

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Sorensen Media Group on Saipan donated \$2,763.38 as educational tax credit to the Hopwood Junior High School Thursday morning.

Tina Palacios, Sorensen Media Group general manager, said the station used to donate its educational tax credits to private schools but this time saw the need for Hopwood students to get it.

The donation, she said, is "not much, but every little bit helps."

Sorensen Media Group plans to give the school another tax credit donation this year.

"The school should be expecting another check and an even bigger one for them shortly," Palacios said.

Hopwood principal Christine Tudela-Masga said the school was overjoyed upon hearing of the donation. They are not sure yet how the money will be spent.

"We have so many activities and projects going on and a lot of catching up for next year, such as the purchase of school materials and books and the expansion of the school library. There is just so many. We have a long list of what we need to do," Tudela-Masga said.

Palacios said she has decided that this year and in the future, all educational tax credits from the Sorensen Media Group will be donated to the CNMI public schools.

"Everybody's always com-

plaining about gas, electricity and all the other economic crises that the island is in, but we just need to get over it, deal with it and help each other out. All this complaining and bickering will not get us anywhere," Palacios said.

She said the radio station is challenging all other businesses, big or small, to do the same with their tax credit.

"It's a tax break. So why not give them to schools where they really need it. If everybody just helps each other out, surely we can overcome all of this," Palacios said.

Tudela-Masga said the school is touched by the many donations it has received from the community.

Hopwood also receives a \$2,000 donation every quarter from Mobil in support of the school's Reading Program.

"Because of the funding and budget issues that we're facing, we and most especially the kids just really appreciate all the support," Tudela-Masga said.

She hopes that companies such as the Sorensen Media Group will continue to remember all the students of the CNMI.

Palacios said it was the strong support of the station's clients, listeners, and staff that inspired them to donate to the worthy cause.

Sorensen Media Group Saipan, Power 99, 97 the CAT, and ABC 7 say they want to thank everybody and is challenging all businesses "to do the same thing we did."

Review urged in passage of Kannat Tabla bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lawmaker has urged for the reconsideration of a bill that take money from the Kannat Tabla drainage project to pay land compensation to certain individuals.

Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, from Precinct 5, said the passage of House Local Bill 16-1 was "a reckless and shortsighted redistribution of funds from a critical infrastructure project to what appear to be certain special interest earmarks."

She said the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation or the House of Representatives should review the passage of the bill. If not, she said, she will formally move to recall the bill pursuant to SNILD rules.

On Monday, the Saipan delegation passed the bill with substantial changes to the original version. The bill, which started as a \$38,000 re-appropriation of poker fees to school supplies, ended up redistributing over \$500,000 for land compensation to individuals, among whom only one was named.

"I believe the people of the commonwealth deserve far better from their elected representatives. This type of 'sleight of hand' legislative activity has no legitimate place in a fair and democratic society," Santos said.

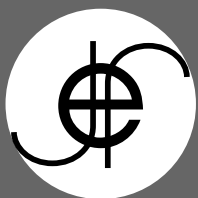
Under the bill, \$250,000 of the Kannat Tabla drainage funds will be re-appropriated for the land compensation of Jose Camacho, who has won a civil suit against the government. About \$200,000 will be used to compensate unnamed landowners at Kannat Tabla whose properties

had been taken by government.

The balance will be divided among the JROTC Army ball (\$8,000), the Oceania Championship Games (\$30,000), and the Saipan Fishermen's Association (\$10,000).

Rep. David M. Apatang sponsored the bill.

The measure passed by a vote of 14-5. Those who voted against the bill are Sen. Maria T. Pangelinan and Reps. Stanley Torres, Joseph Reyes, Sablan, and Salas. Rep. Ray Yumul did not vote, and Santos was absent.



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DEQ to collect household used oil June 21

Households will have an opportunity to rid of their used oil on June 21 at the Lower Base Transfer Station.

The free drop off is only open to residential, not commercial, used oil generators. The total used oil disposal volume cannot exceed 10 gallons.

Tips for disposing:

- Keep your used motor oil clean by pouring it into a clean empty plastic container with a tight lid.

- Make sure containers are leak proof. If they are not, place them in larger leak proof containers.

- Do not mix used oil with any other product.

- Keep all materials away from passengers during transport.

This one-day collection activity is organized by Tetra Tech, the consulting firm hired by Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp.

PMIC's Supplemental Environmental Project purpose is to improve used oil management in the Commonwealth, as part of their settlement with

the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The last used oil collection was held in January 2004. Approximately 3,000 gallons of used oil are stored in fifty-five drums and another 1,500 gallons of mixed fluids, including used oil, paint and other vehicle fluids are stored at the DPW transfer station.

The waste will be sent off island for recycling or energy recovery.

Used motor oil, like other household hazardous waste, is known to harm the environment if it is not recycled or disposed of properly.

If thrown in the trash or poured on the ground, used motor oil can seep into the groundwater people drink. If used motor oil is poured on the street, it will go down a storm drain and into the ocean.

For more information about the used oil collection on June 21, please contact Division of Environmental Quality at 664-8500. (DEQ)

DPS combines 5 proclamations, draws praise

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez yesterday commended the Department of Public Safety for combining five proclamation signings into one event.

"This is organization at its best!" said Villagomez at the ceremony held at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

He said it is his pleasure to support DPS in their efforts by endorsing five CNMI proclamations.

"I urge all citizens to participate in their observance," the

acting governor said.

Villagomez declared May 11 to 17 as CNMI Police Week; May 18 to 24 as Emergency Medical Services Week; May 21 as EMS For Children Day; May 19 to 23 as CNMI Safe Boating Week; and May 19 to June 1 as Click It Or Ticket Mobilization.

On Police Week, the acting governor said the Commonwealth will highlight the role of police officers, honor those fallen in the line of duty, and show appreciation for the men and women of the force for the

demanding jobs they fill.

With respect to EMS Week, he underscored the importance of recognizing the value and accomplishments of EMS responders.

"For anyone who's called 911, you understand how important these services are," he said.

On EMS for Children Day, Villagomez said response to medical emergencies involving children requires special training and attention.

On the Click It campaign, the acting governor said the event

will remind everyone that using a safety belt every time not only keeps people from getting a ticket, but also reduces injuries and saves lives.

The Safe Boating Week, which Villagomez said is close to his heart, emphasizes the need to exercise safe boating practices for everyone.

After the proclamation signing, associate justice Alejandro Castro swore in the newly confirmed DPS Commissioner, Claudio K. Norita. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Saipan SyAqua expects broodstock sales to pick up next month

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture expects demand for broodstock to increase next month as importing countries like Thailand and Malaysia begin to stock up on parent shrimp to produce meat.

"These months are lean months for broodstock market. Starting May we expect more sales because that's when buying peaks up. By next month we will have 2,500 pairs of broodstocks available each month," said the local shrimp farm's operations manager Rommel G. Catalma.

He added that the company has received good marks from its sale of broodstock to one of Malaysia's top shrimp producers last December and is scheduled to ship another 125 pairs to the same company by the end of the month.

The shipment of 500 pieces of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A staff of Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture holds up one of the local shrimp farm's shrimps.

father and mother Pacific white shrimp (*Penaeus Vannamei*) is scheduled on April 29.

Catalma said the parent shrimps exported to Indonesia would weigh about 30 grams to 45 grams per piece and that the

Cargo Express service that the live freight will be in will take the Saipan-Narita-Singapore-Indonesia route.

Last Dec. 27, Saipan SyAqua marked a milestone when it shipped 250 broodstocks to the

Southeast Asian nation.

Currently, Saipan SyAqua is the only shrimp farm outside of Hawaii that exports Pacific white shrimp broodstock. This is because under the law, only U.S. territories are allowed to export the broodstock of that particular species since it was developed by Hawaii's Oceanic Institute.

Catalma added that aside from the restriction, there are also stringent requirements to be able to export parent shrimp to other countries. First, a farm or facility needs a two-year disease-free certification from the University of Arizona and then pass the inspection of the department of fisheries of the particular country the company is exporting to.

He said Saipan SyAqua passed the quarterly reviews from the University of Arizona and was given the green light to export by Thailand and Indonesia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 33 member delegation from locally based Teen Talk show off their free PTI long distance calling cards outside of the Hyatt Regency in Tumon, Guam while taking a break from last weekend's 18th Annual Youth For Youth Conference.

Over 300 youths flocked to the Hyatt Regency in Tumon, Guam last weekend for the 18th Annual Youth For Youth Conference on Guam to tackle the everyday challenges faced by young adults. Among the participants

who learned about the dangers of drugs and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle was a 33-member delegation from Saipan.

While the CNMI's representatives from Teen Talk were busy learning about their re-

sponsibilities as young adults during the day, the students were able to call home to Saipan in the evenings thanks to a donation from PTI.

PTI continued its support of area youth by sending each of

the students off to Guam with a free long distance calling card so they could stay in touch with their friends and families on Saipan, and relay the lessons learned from the Youth For Youth LIVE Organization. (*PTI*)

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Special Board Meeting

Board of Regents Conference Room,
NMC Saipan Campus
Tuesday, April 29, 2008
3:30pm

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Roll Call
- II. Public Comments/ Miscellaneous
- III. Old Business
 - A. FY 09 Budget
- IV. New Business
 - A. OMIP Grant
- IV. Executive Session - At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- V. Adjournment

/s/ Joey P. San Nicolas
Acting Chairperson, Board of Regents

April 25, 2008
Date

Free car wash today for anti-cancer drive

Team PTI and Marianas High School will be holding a free car wash today, April 26, 2008 at PTI's parking lot in Susupe, right next to the Fire Station. The event will be from 7am until 2pm and members of the community are invited to bring their cars for this free service.

Although the students of MHS and the staff of PTI are offering the free car wash to the public, they plan on generating funds through the pledge forms that are being circulated before the date of the event.

The pledge forms request for people to donate 10 cents per car that is washed at the event. The funds from the pledges will go toward the team's donation to this year's Marianas March Against Cancer.

According to Jesse Toves, the event organizer, "We look forward to this weekend's event and we hope to raise a large amount of money for MMAC."

"PTI has other exciting fundraising activities going on and we thank everyone who is willing to help us raise funds for this worthy cause," he added.

During the car wash, there will also be entertainment, food, and great prizes. "We hope that people who plan on going to the Arts Festival will also drop by our event since it is in the same area," Toves said.

Aside from the car wash, other fundraising activities include the selling of raffle tickets for a round-trip ticket to the U.S. or Asia, weekly hot lunches, a bowling tournament, in house fundraisers, and so much more.

To find out more about PTI's fundraising efforts, call Toves at 234-6600.



SWEARING IN

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde K. Norita recites his oath of office while his wife Jenny and mother Julia listen during the swearing in ceremony facilitated by Associate Justice Alexandro Cruz Castro at the Governor's conference room Friday.

JACQUELINE HERMANDEZ

MANY

From Page 1

1 in most states.

"Whether or not the national economy is in recession - a subject of ongoing debate - is almost beside the point for some states," said the report to be released Friday by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The weakening economy is hitting tax revenue in a number of ways: People's discretionary income is being gobbled up by higher food and fuel costs, while the tanking housing market means people are spending less on furniture and appliances associated with buying a house.

The situation is grim in Delaware, with a \$69 million gap this year, and bleak in California, with a projected \$16 billion budget shortfall over the next two years, the report said. Florida does not expect a rapid turnaround in revenue because of the prolonged real estate slump there.

By mid-April, 16 states and Puerto Rico were reporting shortfalls in their current budgets as the revenue those budgets were built on - typically, taxes - fell short of estimates. That's double the number of states reporting a deficit six months ago.

The NCSL said the news is even

worse for the upcoming fiscal year, with 23 states and Puerto Rico already reporting budget shortfalls totaling \$26 billion. More than two-thirds of states said they are concerned about next year's budgets.

The results are consistent with a drumbeat of bad economic news for states that several budget groups have produced in the past few months.

Last week, the Washington-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said 27 states are reporting projected budget shortfalls next year totaling at least \$39 billion.

President Bush said Tuesday that the economy was not in a recession but a period of slower growth. However, some economists have pointed to the string of declines in manufacturing orders to argue that the economy has fallen into a recession.

Bolstering their position, the Commerce Department reported Thursday that sales of new homes plunged in March to the lowest level in 16 1/2 years. The government also reported that orders to factories for big-ticket goods fell for a third straight month in March, the longest string of declines since the 2001 recession.

Some states "have declined so much that they appear to be in a recession," the NCSL report said.

It also noted the silver lining for states where the economy is based on energy,

such as North Dakota and Wyoming. Alaska is making so much money from oil that it announced an estimated surplus next year of \$8 billion, almost twice the state's annual budget.

In North Dakota, revenue is above legislative predictions by 13 percent, and in Louisiana, the oil and gas sector is robust.

"For energy-producing states, the fiscal situation is strong and the outlook is good," the report said.

Among other findings:

■ More than half the 16 states reporting deficits this year have cut spending, including \$1 billion by Florida lawmakers last year and across-the-board cuts in Nevada. At least eight states are debating raising taxes or fees, including a proposed \$1-per-pack cigarette tax increase in Massachusetts to raise \$175 million.

■ Twelve states, including Georgia, Idaho and Illinois, reported that personal income tax collections were failing to meet estimates, and in eight of these, collections were even below a reduced forecast.

■ Many states, including Alabama, Arizona, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada and Wisconsin, plan to tap their rainy day funds, which contain money set aside for fiscal emergencies. Nevada may use its entire rainy day balance.

my colleagues failed to recognize this," Babauta said.

He said there is a local business interested in investing at least \$20 million on gaming operations at La Fiesta. He added that the investor is willing to pay an additional \$20 million in advance taxes.

Further, Babauta said, the proposal would allow the government to recoup what it paid for the La Fiesta, which is now sitting idle.

Motorist sues over defective courtesy car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A motorist has filed a lawsuit against an auto repair shop and its owner for allegedly causing him to have an accident by providing him with a defective courtesy car.

Bao Zhong Wang sued New Pasifasia Trading Inc. (NPTI) and its officer Yi Bin Pan for negligence and violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

Wang, through counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, demanded damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Torres stated in the complaint that on April 17, 2006, Wang was involved in an automobile accident. That day, Wang entrusted his vehicle into NPTI's care for repair.

NPTI provided Wang with a courtesy vehicle, a 1997 Toyota Camry CE.

Torres said that upon driving the courtesy vehicle away, Wang dis-

covered the car's defects—faulty brakes and steering wheel and an inoperable seatbelt.

The plaintiff immediately returned the car to NPTI and informed the shop about its defects.

Wang requested a different courtesy car, but NPTI and Pan denied the request and assured him it was a safe vehicle.

Torres said that on April 25, 2006, while Wang was operating the courtesy vehicle on As Perdido Road, the brakes failed. This caused the vehicle to slide off the paved road and into a power pole, Torres said.

As a result of the collision, Wang was knocked unconscious, received a laceration on the back of the head and suffered severe leg injuries.

"Defendants NPTI and Pan introduced into commerce an unsafe vehicle which they knew or should have known was unsafe for normal use," Torres said.

Four Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 4 sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency said samples collected from Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, Garapan Fishing Dock and Garapan Beach Drainage contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal

waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Tinian and Managaha waters are assigned green flags.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

YANA

From Page 1

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman for a bail hearing yesterday at 3pm.

Wiseman explained to the two that Govendo issued the bench warrant after DOC "wrongfully released them" on the day Govendo remanded them back to jail.

Yana explained that DOC released them because Govendo's previous order directed them to spend 30 days in jail.

Yana said by April 24 (Thursday) at 10:30am they were already in detention for 30 days.

Yana said that DOC should not be blamed because Govendo's order as received by DOC set a 30-day sentence.

But Wiseman read the written order issued by Govendo shortly after Thursday's hearing that remanded them into custody.

"You were wrongfully released by

DOC," Wiseman told Yana and Atalig.

Wiseman emphasized that Govendo's order set no fixed jail term and remanded the two lawyers to DOC.

Atalig said he wants to put on record that their release was not either DOC's or their fault.

The judge responded: "I'm not saying it's your fault at all."

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* for comment, Atalig lambasted Govendo for issuing an order directing them to spend 30 days in jail and later changing his decision without informing DOC.

Yana refused to comment.

During Thursday's review hearing, Govendo threw back Yana and Atalig to jail for their continued failure to return \$1.3 million in attorneys' fees that they received in the controversial Angel Malite estate probate.

On March 28, Govendo issued the contempt order against the two lawyers and ordered them to be imprisoned until they disgorged the \$1.3 million.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

the fourth La Fiesta gaming bill to get the ax since last election, when voters junked the casino initiative for Saipan.

The bill proposed to allow video lottery terminals, as well as Texas Hold'em poker, black jack and baccarat games, to be operated at La Fiesta.

Babauta, the sponsor of the bill, is

disappointed by the action of his colleagues. He said a limited gaming industry, as proposed in the bill, would have gone a long way to easing the current economic crisis.

"Every single session [of the Legislature], we debate where to get the money to keep the government running. So I have come up with this brilliant idea to provide for limited gaming. The benefits will go not only to my precinct, but to the entire CNMI's coffers. But

In 2003, the CNMI government bought La Fiesta for \$7.5 million. A portion of the purchase price, \$3.5 million, was paid by the Governor's Office under the Babauta administration. The remaining balance was to be paid in \$200,000 annual installments.

But Rep. Diego Benavente said no amount of argument would change the fact that Saipan voters rejected casinos in November 2007.

"When the people voted on the ca-

sino, they knew how much revenue casinos generate. They knew about Macao, they knew about Las Vegas. They were suffering in the economic crisis. But still they said no, because they also knew what negative effects casinos would have on the community. As their representatives, we are obligated to respect their decision," Benavente said.

He added that Saipan must support Tinian and Rota, both of which have approved casinos.

'Ice' trafficking case vs Tinian couple unsealed

The Superior Court has unsealed the case filed against a couple who were allegedly engaged in selling crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman on Wednesday ruled that the court no longer finds any compelling reason to seal the case against Os-

car M. King, 60, and GuiHua Luo King, 33.

During preliminary hearing, Wiseman also found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against the King couple.

The judge ordered the couple to answer the charges of one count of trafficking of

controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance.

Arraignment was set for April 28 at 9am.

Detective Anthony P. Borja stated in his report that last April 11 a confidential informant disclosed that he was buying "ice" from the King couple.

Borja said they conducted two buy operations using the confidential informant, and managed to procure \$30 and \$100 worth

of "ice" from the suspects.

The detective said that on April 12 they served a search warrant at the suspects' apart-

ment room where they seized \$5,953 cash and 58 pieces of clear plastic straw filled with "ice." (*Ferdie dela Torre*)

Guam's juvenile drug court gets 'Hafa Adai' inspirational cards

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—The Guam Juvenile Drug Court received 500 "Hafa Adai" inspirational cards from First Hawaiian Bank and the Guam Chamber of Commerce, according to an announcement Thursday by Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president, Guam and CNMI Region Manager.

The cards were produced and donated by First Hawaiian Bank as a community service effort to assist the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the Guam Juvenile Drug Court with their at-risk teen programs.

Dacanay and Chamber president Reina Leddy presented 500 "Hafa Adai" inspirational cards to Judge Arthur R. Barcinas of the Judiciary of Guam, Juvenile Drug Court.

The cards, which have positive words printed on them, serve as inspirational reminders to the teen cardholder that no matter what adverse situation they may find themselves in, there is always hope. The first cards will be presented to teens graduating from

the Guam Juvenile Drug Court Program on May 9, 2008.

"The Chamber and Juvenile Drug Court have done much to address the educational and development needs of our youth and have already begun making a difference in our community with its at-risk teens programs," said Dacanay. "We are pleased to be supporting them in their efforts to expand their program initiatives to help teens learn to live a drug-free lifestyle."

"We are grateful to First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Chamber of Commerce for these beautiful cards which will help motivate our teens stay the course and remain drug and alcohol free," says Barcinas.

Since 2002, the Guam Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Guam Juvenile Drug Court to provide support and services to over 150 student and families in the Intensive Track. In 2007, the Chamber expanded services to the Non-Intensive Track students through Driver's Education workshops and Expressive

Arts Therapy, reaching out to more than 250 at-risk students.

Youths in the Guam Juvenile Drug Court participate in the Chamber Life Skills Youth Program, a monthly workshops series focused on work/job skills, life skills, self-esteem and goal setting skills, and sports and health development skills. Recreational therapy for teens held on Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. promotes healthy and drug-free lifestyle through sports and interactive activities. The Guam Juvenile Drug Court also sponsors a Career Day in conjunction with the Chamber highlighting job training, motivational speaking, entrepreneurial skill and a drug-free workplace.

Founded in 1858, First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. It is one of the largest banks in Micronesia with three branches on Guam and two on Saipan. The bank has total assets of approximately \$13 billion. (*FHB*)

Tractor operator in head-on collision sues

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A Public Works heavy equipment operator has sued a motorist for the injuries he sustained as a result of a head-on collision between a tractor and a car.

Ramon Ramos Deleon Guerrero sued Joshua Charles Gibson for negligence.

Deleon Guerrero, through counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, asked the Superior Court to order Gibson to pay him damages, at-

orney's fees, and court costs.

Torres stated in the complaint that on July 20, 2006, Deleon Guerrero was operating a tractor to mow the shoulder of Highway 16 in Papago as part of his duties for DPW.

The plaintiff saw a white car, which was driven by Gibson, traveling south toward him.

Torres said his client stopped the tractor to prevent rocks and other debris from flying into the oncoming vehicle.

The lawyer said that Gib-

son suddenly and unexpectedly swerved off his lane, causing a head-on collision with the tractor.

"Upon collision, Mr. Deleon Guerrero was immediately ejected from his seat on the tractor, violently hurled into mid-air and brutally landed on the asphalt road where Mr. Deleon Guerrero sustained serious personal injuries," Torres said.

He said that, because of Gibson's reckless, careless and negligent failure to drive in a reasonable manner, defendant collided into plaintiff's tractor "causing severe personal injuries to Mr. Deleon Guerrero."

Rota agencies clean up beach of shipwreck

Several government agencies on Rota have teamed up with a private company to remove the metal remains of a commercial fishing vessel that had been shipwrecked off the coast of the island.

On April 8, 2008 the Rota Coastal Resources Management, Department of Public Safety's Boating and Safety Division, Department of Public Works, Marianas Visitor Authority, Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish and Wildlife and D&J Equipment Rentals and the Office of the Mayor continued the removal of the vessel's metal debris, which started in September 2007.

The *Nam Sung* #62 a commercial fishing vessel shipwrecked off the coast of Tatqua, Rota Island on July 20, 1982.

The gross tonnage of the all-metal vessel weighed some 287 tons and measured a total length of 139.43 ft from fore side of the stern to the aft side of the stern post. Since then, it has sat on the reef-crest, weathering away storm after storm and breaking apart from the great force of the waves constantly colliding with the vessel's dilapidated hulls. Over the years, pieces of the deteriorated vessel have been scattered throughout the lagoon and shore-line, leaving jagged metal debris embedded in the sand and substrate of the lagoon waters, degrading the marine environment and polluting the shoreline. Marine debris that have broken off have the potential to cause damage to nearby coral colonies as it is pushed around by the agitation of the forceful wave ac-

tion. The largest two sections of the remaining vessels hulls are still intact and rest just adjacent the sandy white beach and have created a potential entrapment hazard for recreational beach users and tourists who frequent the lagoon waters. Government agencies worked together in a joint effort with the owner of D&J Equipment Rentals and his employees by collecting metal debris throughout the beach and lagoon waters daily.

Rota CRMO's William Pendergrass said: "We were able to remove an estimated five 10-ton truck loads and fill a lowboy with the capacity of 30 tons twice with the vessel's debris, an accumulated collection of 80 tons. We were able to remove all the vessel debris from the shoreline and lagoon with the excep-



Heavy equipment is used to clear up the beach of the debris from the shipwreck.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The hardworking crew that pooled their efforts together to rid the Rota beach of this eyesore.

tion of six pieces which were too far to reach from the shoreline and the two largest sections of the vessel's hulls still left intact sitting near the beach."

Funding received from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$6,000 contributed to the purchase of fuel and materials required to conduct the vessel debris removal project and

its outreach activities.

The owner of D&J Equipment Rentals, Fidel Mendiola, and his employees were instrumental in making this activity after they donated their equipment, time, and labor at no charge to the government.

"The funds for this project are limited but this combined effort to clean our beaches and coastal

waters of marine debris are evidence of a community interested in creating a clean and healthful environment for the benefit of all," said Pendergrass.

The vessel removal project of the *Nam Sung* is tentatively scheduled to resume on May 5, 2008, to attempt to remove the vessel's large bow section from the shoreline. (*PR*)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Ship of shame

It's a rare moment when three African nations, in an effort to forestall violence, block a shipment of weapons to a neighboring country in political turmoil. It's perhaps even a historic development when those weapons were sold by a great power and were bound for a government that is not under United Nations sanctions and has every legal right to buy arms—though no moral right to do so. So let us praise the courageous peoples of South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia for refusing to allow the Chinese freighter An Yue Jiang to unload its deadly cargo: 77 tons of rockets, mortars and ammunition, manufactured by a Chinese state-owned enterprise, purchased by the government of Zimbabwe and virtually certain to be used by President Robert Mugabe to repress his opposition following an election that he may have lost.

Mugabe's neighboring leaders had been loath to criticize the former independence fighter even as his reign descended from the merely bad into the abominable. South African President Thabo Mbeki did not ask Mugabe to release the disputed election tallies until his own country was flooded with refugees from Mugabe's violent crackdown. But if Mbeki sympathized with Mugabe, the dockworkers of Durban identified with Mugabe's victims. They understood that sending the weapons to Zimbabwe would have been the moral equivalent of shipping machetes to Rwanda in 1994, and they refused to unload the cargo. Next, an Anglican archbishop asked a South African court not to allow the weapons to be transported to land-locked Zimbabwe. The court agreed, and the Chinese freighter, by now dubbed the "Ship of Shame," departed Durban. It was refused entry by Mozambique and Zambia.

The hosts of the Beijing Olympics should bring home the freighter and its unwanted cargo and reflect on whether China intends to become a compassionate global citizen or the very type of capitalist predator it fought a revolution to defeat.

What is extraordinary about this incident is that African civil society—journalists and judges, human rights groups and unions, backed by U.S. and British diplomats wisely working behind the scenes—made it palatable for these African governments to do the right thing. They have shown that simple acts can help protect civilians against war crimes and crimes against humanity, a responsibility that was enshrined in a 2006 U.N. Security Council resolution but is often seen as impossible to uphold. This is the best kind of conflict prevention.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



The way forward in Tibet

President Bush has repeatedly expressed his steadfast support for dialogue between the Dalai Lama and China's leadership. Meaningful dialogue presents the only viable way forward.

In March, demonstrations in Lhasa that began peacefully escalated into violence and quickly spread to other Tibetan areas of China. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has expressed deep concern regarding these events, has called on all sides to refrain from violence, and has strongly urged China to exercise restraint in dealing with the protesters and to respect the fundamental right of all people to peacefully express their religious and political views.

Underlying these tragic events is China's long-standing repression of religious, cultural and other freedoms for the Tibetan people, repression that has been extensively documented in State Department human rights reports and elsewhere. Since 1949, the cycle of protests followed by crackdowns has repeated itself several times, but the end result has always been the same: Control is restored but only temporarily, while the underlying causes of Tibetan grievances remain unaddressed.

The recent protests are a manifestation of lingering frustration at a lack of progress in addressing Tibetans' concerns. These ethnic clashes have resulted in fatalities of Tibetans and Han Chinese and in widespread arrests. The best way for China's leaders to address Tibetan concerns is to engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama, who has advocated a "middle way" that embraces autonomy for Tibet within China and rejects seeking independence. The Dalai Lama is the only person with the influence and credibility to persuade Tibetans to eschew violence and accept a genuine autonomy within China that would also preserve Tibetan culture and identity.

The U.S. government believes there is a basis for dialogue between the Dalai Lama and China's leadership. The Dalai Lama has met the preconditions for dialogue called for by China: He does not advocate independence for Tibet; he does not engage in or advocate separatist activities; and he recognizes that Tibet is part of China. The Dalai Lama has publicly come out strongly against the violence that erupted recently in Lhasa and other areas. He even took the extraordinary step of offering his resignation if necessary to convince all parties of his nonviolent approach to reaching resolution. And he has indicated his support for holding the Olympic Games in Beijing. The United States has honored the Dalai Lama as a man of peace and a lifelong advocate of nonviolence by awarding him the

By PAULA J. DOBRIANSKY

Special to The Washington Post

The writer is U.S. special coordinator for Tibetan issues and undersecretary of state for democracy and global affairs.



Congressional Gold Medal last October.

When the Chinese government uses harsh rhetoric against the Dalai Lama, or steps up "patriotic education campaigns" that include forced denunciations of the Dalai Lama, it serves only to further enflame tensions. Some in China, however, have taken a stand against such tactics. In an unprecedented move, prominent Chinese intellectuals are circulating a petition that calls on the Chinese government to end its "one-sided" propaganda campaign and initiate direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

Since 2002, the Dalai Lama's representatives have conducted six rounds of talks with Chinese officials, in a major departure from the previous 20 years of nonengagement. These discussions, while substantive, have not yet produced concrete results. If continued in good faith, this dialogue could build trust and provide the long-term basis for political and economic stability in Tibet. As Secretary Rice has noted, while Beijing has missed opportunities to engage the Dalai Lama directly, there is still hope, and it is not too late to do so.

In addition to engaging in meaningful dialogue, China should immediately cease the repressive measures directed at Tibetans seeking to practice their religion and preserve their cultural identity, and should release those detained for peacefully protesting or expressing their views. Although the Chinese government recently arranged official trips to Lhasa for journalists and diplomats, we continue to call for unfettered access for all media and foreign diplomats into Tibetan areas.

We hope that the current generation of Chinese leaders—who have shown that they can pursue enlightened economic policies and who aspire to make China a respected global and regional stakeholder—recognize that the resumption of a serious and direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama offers the best hope for resolving long-standing problems and achieving worthy goals in Tibet.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Home cooking the books

There are experiments—Galileo’s falling bodies, Einstein’s elevator, NBC’s “The Age of Love”—that radically change the way human beings conceptualize the world around them. But little celebrated are the vast majority of experiments that prove the obvious. This is one of those experiments.

With grocery prices spiking—2007 had the worst food inflation in 17 years—it became more important than ever to find out which was more expensive: eating at home or going to a restaurant.

I’ve eaten too many dishes like chorizo-crust Chatham cod with white coco bean puree and harissa oil and wondered: How could I possibly buy all these ingredients for \$30? I’ve marveled at the existence of \$1 double cheeseburgers. Is it possible, I’ve fantasized, that bulk ordering and efficient use of raw goods actually makes eating out more economical? Just as we no longer each do our own farming, have we advanced to a point of specialization where it is inefficient to cook? Can the world be that wonderful?

The answer, after a week’s worth of careful tallying and computation, is: not even close.

I set strict rules for the experiment. I counted only dinners—because breakfast and lunch are obviously cheap to make. No alcohol; the restaurant markup would skew everything. No fast food: No way my home cooking could be cheaper than a \$1 double cheeseburger, unless I looked the other way when I bought the meat, grilled 500 of them and then tricked all 499 of my friends into slipping me \$1.25 for a soda. I also wasn’t dining out at any steakhouses because, while

maybe I can’t get hold of all their quality cuts, I know I can get a New York strip and grill it for one-third of the price. No appetizers, no desserts, no coffee. And although I wouldn’t deduct for leftovers or unused portions of ingredients at home, I also wouldn’t count condiments, oils, seasonings, the cost of running the dishwasher or the labor of cooking and cleaning.

Yes, while I was formulating these rules I really did think this was all going to wind up in some textbook as Stein’s Law. Finally replacing my dad’s Stein’s Law, which stated that you can’t talk during “The Rockford Files.”

It also should be noted that my results were skewed by the fact that because all meals were for two, my wife was involved in some ordering and food shopping, and she was very, very eager to make sure that eating out seemed like a bargain. Imagine how Sir Alexander Fleming would have fared if his lab assistant could eat better for the rest of her life if she killed all his penicillin fungus. Cassandra, when I wasn’t looking, somehow bought ground beef for our tacos that cost \$15.49. Our salad had \$6 worth of lettuce. If Damien Hirst made diamond-encrusted pasta, she’d have put that on our home menu.

Still, restaurants got spanked.

Pasta was almost twice as much, despite the fact we spent \$8 on Parmesan that we used only a sliver of. A restaurant’s pizza with a salad cost nearly twice as much as the seared, sesame-crust wild albacore accompanied by “haricot verts” with shiitake mushrooms and toasted almonds and a side of organic yams that I prepared at home. Burgers and a side dish at a famous stand in San Francisco

Still with stupid?

Years ago, at a dinner party on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, I found myself in a shouting match about whether it was fair to make fun of intellectuals. The person with whom I was arguing, herself the daughter of prominent scholars, said she was offended by the work of Woody Allen because of his mocking portrayal of educated, urban elites.

Such derisiveness, she claimed, would never be tolerated if it were aimed at racial minorities, or poor people, or even plain old intelligent people who didn’t stammer and flail their hands around quite so much when they talked. As a proud intellectual (and this is where the shouting began, not to mention some hand flailing), she was offended on behalf of herself and the entire community.

At the time, I was 25 and strenuously devoted to the cause of making my life resemble that of a Woody Allen character. (This was before he moved them to the Upper East Side.) Still, I couldn’t see my dinner companion’s grievance as anything but unintentional self-parody. Intellectuals, I argued, were made for poking fun at. Even I, a clueless suburban refugee who dreamed of rent-controlled apartments filled with house plants and volumes of Goethe, could see that.

I never thought I’d say this, but I’m beginning to think she might have had a point. As dumb as things were back then, it’s fair to suggest today’s culture is even dumber. Granted, the police aren’t raiding highbrow cultural events and arresting anyone who uses a three-syllable word, but something uncannily similar is playing out, minute by minute, on television and the Internet. With political discourse reduced to screaming contests and actual news eclipsed by exclusive and shocking footage of celebrities without makeup, we’ve become not only impatient with but downright opposed to the kinds of ideas that can’t be reduced to a

line on a screen crawl or a two-sentence blog entry.

What’s more, a lot of people who harbor an intolerance for complexity see it not as a character flaw but a cognitive virtue. That’s because they’ve fallen into the trap of believing that complicated ideas (“complicated” now constituting anything that requires reading, watching or listening to in its entirety) are the purview of the “elite.”

The effect of that trap has been on a continuous loop in recent days, following Barack Obama’s ill-chosen remarks about bitter rural Americans clinging to guns and religion. The takeaway, of course, is that this sentiment proves once and for all that Obama is an elitist fatally out of touch with the average American. But in deference to my onetime dinner companion, let me ask this: Is he vulnerable to the out-of-touch charge because he is an elitist, or because he is usually (even if not in this case) comfortable with and in command of nuanced ideas? Is he bashable because he’s a snob or because he’s an intellectual?

Given that “intellectual” is now far too open to interpretation to mean much (William F. Buckley was considered an intellectual, but these days so is anyone who wears those hipster-nerd glasses), I’m tempted to leave that question to the old master, Woody Allen (though, let’s be honest, he traded intellectuals for boring rich people a while ago). But even if Obama is not an intellectual in the classic sense, there’s no doubt that he’s absorbed the trappings of erudite rhetoric. He offers up ideas that don’t lend themselves to sound bites but require some sustained attention. And according to the media and the political spin machine, that’s proof he’s snobby and out of touch.

U.S. candidates for president can’t seem to get elected unless they

New generation begins rise to leadership

By MARY ALICE HADDAD
SPECIAL TO THE HARTFORD COURANT

Why now?

Why is it this year, 2008, that we have the first serious black contender for president?

We have heard the theme come out as an aside or an undercurrent in candidate speeches and pundit analyses: generational change. The usual focus is young people and their high-technology ways of rallying support and raising money. But the analysts should be looking more toward the graying set to explain what is going on in this election. It is not the screaming youths who are going to be the significant factor in the 2009 administration, it is the new generation of leaders who will be increasing their ranks in government, business and in civic organizations.

A new generation is coming to power in American politics. Its only member among the current set of contenders, Barack Obama, might not win this particular election, but we will see more and more leaders like him in the years to come.

November 2008 will be the first national election in which a majority of voters will have received all of their schooling after the 1965 Civil Rights Act. These Americans are not free of racial

stereotypes, but the stereotypes are not as central to their world views as they were for previous generations. Even if they attended mono-racial schools, they were not taught in school that particular races were mentally inferior. Separate-but-equal might still be practiced in some places, but, for the first time this year, a majority of voting Americans will not have experienced it as part of a national ideology.

Ours is not the only democracy to undergo profound change with the rise of a particular generation. Analogous changes have recently occurred in Japan. In 2001, Junichiro Koizumi became the first prime minister to have experienced his entire education in a democratic Japan. He became the longest serving prime minister in 30 years, stepping down voluntarily after three terms rather than being voted out of office. In that country, generations that experienced their entire education in a democratic Japan became a majority of the electorate in 1990; they became a majority in the national legislature by the end of the decade and now hold more than 80 percent of the seats.

Although Japan has had all of the institutional requirements of a democracy since it promulgated its constitution in 1947, the past decade has seen sweeping changes that have enhanced that country’s democracy.

By JOEL STEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com



cost \$4 more than mine using Whole Foods organic ground beef.

The only meal whose price I couldn’t beat were the vastly superior “carne asada” tacos we bought out of a Taco Zone truck near downtown L.A.—and that would have been true even if I hadn’t bought \$15 worth of magic cow. The lesson is that when immigrants who don’t have to pay rent on their kitchen make an excellent meal, don’t bother turning on your stove.

The total for a week’s worth of restaurant dinners for two was \$257.08; home cooking: \$148.14. Removing the outliers, a mid-range L.A. dinner was \$40 for two, while shopping for insanely high-end ingredients at a snotty supermarket ran \$18.

Sure, at home Cassandra and I each ate the same dish instead of ordering our own meals, and my dinners were often simpler. But sometimes we got to watch TV and not wear pants. If someone opens a restaurant like that, I’ll rerun the experiment and drop fistfuls of saffron in everything.

By MEGHAN DAUM

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail Daum at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com.



convince voters how ordinary they are (George W. Bush’s oratory struggles actually endear him to some people). But as long as we’re wringing our hands over how “just folks” these folks are, let’s look at what really separates them from the rest of us: money.

The Obamas’ tax returns, released last week, showed a 2006 income (they filed an extension for 2007) of more than \$4.2 million, most of which came from book royalties. Bill and Hillary Clinton showed a combined income of more than \$20 million last year. John McCain’s 2007 tax return reflected an income of only around \$400,000, but not to worry, his wife is worth about \$100 million. As for Bush, the figure is about \$20 million.

Yes, Obama’s richer than most ordinary people, but in that pantheon, he’s the guy most likely to know how much a can of tuna costs. As for his branding as an elite or an intellectual, why the jeers? Shouldn’t they all fit that bill? “The Daily Show’s” Jon Stewart summed it up best: “Not only do I want an elite president,” he said last week, “I want someone who is embarrassingly superior to me.”

As someone who still hasn’t read Goethe amid all those celebrity makeover stories, I couldn’t agree more.

Wave after wave of recent legislation has enhanced Japan’s democratic institutions and practices: a 1993 change in the election law designed to enhance electoral competition; a 1994 product liability law that empowered consumers; a 1998 nonprofit organization law that significantly enhanced the ability of nonprofit organizations to gain legal status; a 1999 freedom of information law that increased public access to governmental information; a 1999 law promoting gender equality; a 2001 law that stipulated the creation of lay judges, the list goes on and on. Japan’s democratically educated generations have and are re-making fundamental political institutions and revamping politics in their country. We are about to do the same in ours.






The 2008 presidential campaign is about large policy issues facing the country—war, health care, the economy. It might also be about what we think our democracy should look like in the future; the kind of democracy that we will leave as a legacy to our children. No matter who is elected in November, change is afoot. This election is only the beginning.

Haddad is an assistant professor of government and East Asian studies at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and author of the book *Politics and Volunteering in Japan*.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	T'Storms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	T'Storms	▲84 ▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	T'Storms	▲84 ▼74

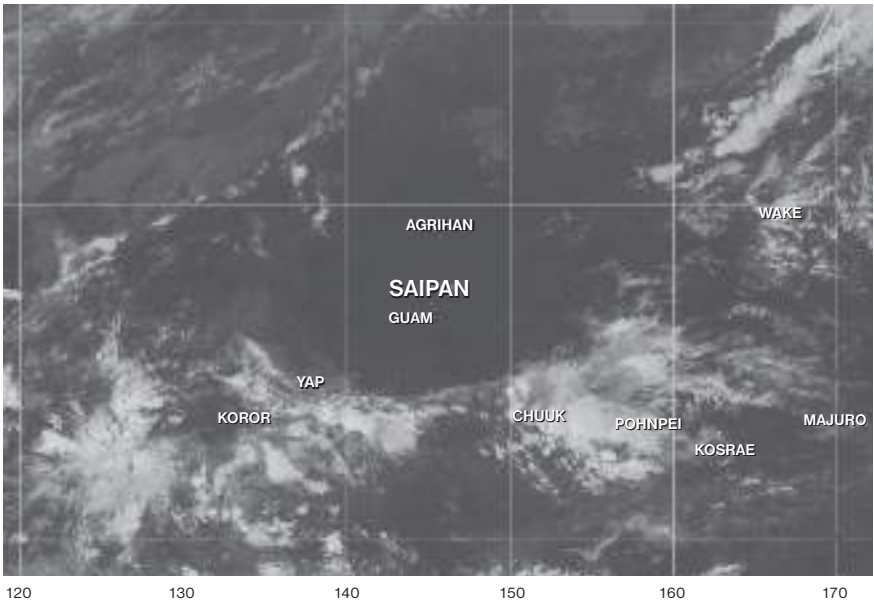
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼59
Beijing	Cloudy	▲72 ▼52
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼72
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85 ▼72
London	Cloudy	▲65 ▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86 ▼56
Manila	T'Storms	▲91 ▼77
Melbourne	T'Storms	▲64 ▼43
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼71
New York	Showers	▲61 ▼47
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼52
Paris	Cloudy	▲66 ▼51
Pusan	Sunny	▲70 ▼46
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼44
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70 ▼51
Seoul	Cloudy	▲63 ▼42
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲69 ▼54
Washington, DC	T'Storms	▲76 ▼57

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:16AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:28AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:50AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:39PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N136E to 22N133E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this front. A shear line from 25N157E extends southwest to 20N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and 200 miles north of this shear line. An upper level trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 50 miles of 19N159E. A weak circulation east of Mindanao is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 2N and 7N from 137E to 140E. Heavier showers were concentrated mostly south of Palau and Yap. A surface trough just west of Chuuk extends from 13N153E to 8N150E to 2N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are between 3N and 11N from 140E to 162E. This area extends from south of Yap across Pohnpei to the vicinity of Kosrae.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56AM	6:34PM
Sunday	5:56AM	6:34PM
Monday	5:55AM	6:34PM
Tuesday	5:55AM	6:34PM
Wednesday	5:54AM	6:34PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:30PM	10:52AM*
Sunday	11:30PM**	10:52AM*
Monday	12:16AM	11:46AM
Tuesday	12:59AM	12:39PM
Wednesday	1:40AM	1:32PM

*Following Day *Preceding Day

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- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services		
CATHOLIC		
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm		
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm		
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm		
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am		
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm		
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm		
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm		
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm		
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm		
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am		
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm		
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism		
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am		
PROTESTANT		
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm		
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm		
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm		
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm		
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions		
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm		
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)		
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto		
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)		
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)		
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday		
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm		
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)		
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm		
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm		
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620		
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm		
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)		
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm		
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm		
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm		
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday		
	9am 10am 6pm	Sunday school Regular worship worship
Wednesday	7pm	worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.		
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism		
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer		
	7am-9am 7am-9am 10am-12noon	English service Sunday school English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan		
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S		

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 26, 1999

Fate of kindergarten program uncertain

While the Public School System has started its registration for the grade school level, the government isn’t certain whether funding is forthcoming to allow the kindergarten program to continue. Amid protests from the public, Health, Education and Welfare Committee Chairman Heinz Hofschneider admitted that the program may be suspended until appropriate funding has been identified.

CUC may RFP for water desal system

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation may issue yet another request for proposal (RFP) on a water desalination facility for central Saipan after the initial project was dropped due to high costs and little support from residents. An in-house committee will review a new RFP on the long-overdue project for approval by the CUC board of directors, according to its executive director Timothy P. Villagomez.

Duty Free break sought for Caribbean

Two pending legislation under review by the US Congress is seeking duty-free breaks to apparel made in countries on the Caribbean Basin subject to few conditions, posing yet another blow to the garment industry in the CNMI. The nation’s lawmakers are likely going to compromise on country-of-origin textile provisions in the twin measures introduced in both the House of the Representatives and the Senate in a bid to hasten its passage.

April 26, 2000

Prisoners protest; set fire at DOC

A group of prisoners set a fire in the Division of Corrections’ main facility at around 8:45 p.m. yesterday to protest the temporary suspension of their privileges as a result of the prison lockdown imposed following the Easter Sunday jailbreak. Preliminary investigation showed that about four or five inmates started the fire in section A where 20 prisoners were being held, according to Maj. Clyde Norita.

CPA employees to receive wage hike

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors has approved the restoration of the annual five percent increment in the wages of the agency’s employees, after having been frozen for two years due to financial constraints. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios disclosed the five percent salary adjustment, which is equivalent to one step ahead under the Civil Service Commission rules and regulations, has been in effect beginning April 24, 2000.

House rejects Senate changes to 2000 spending plan

The government will have to forego having a balanced budget for the current fiscal year. Lawmakers appeared headed into a deadlock on the FY 2000 budget proposal as the House of Representatives yesterday rejected as expected increases in funding level approved by the Senate for Rota and Tinian municipalities as well as other government programs. Due to inability to get support for its actions, the upper house may just abandon negotiation with its counterpart in to reach a compromise as it is already more than halfway into the fiscal year.

April 26, 2001

New study on toxic wastes in Tanapag

The presence of other chemicals other than PCB on Saipan convinced legislators that an independent study must be undertaken to determine its environmental impact in the Tanapag Village. Legislators expressed concerns that agencies handling the federally-funded study of PCB contamination in Tanapag might not release exact and specific information on the extent of possible environmental risks.

Court raises doubts on law’s constitutionality

A statute that ordered an autonomous government agency to render a prompt decision in connection with Saipan’s undisputed need for additional electric power sources is now under close scrutiny by the local court. Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas has placed under review Public Law 12-1, as enacted by the 12th CNMI Legislature, the very statute that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation used as basis to award the 80-megawatt power plant project to Enron International Mariana Power Inc.

Business

Gas prices jump, as crude oil prices fall

NEWYORK (AP)—Gasoline prices shot up to yet another record at the pump Thursday, while some analysts said the sharp price increases of recent days could soon level off although gas will continue to rise. Crude oil prices, meanwhile, fell more than \$2 a barrel as the dollar gained strength against the euro.

At the pump, the average national price of a gallon of regular gas jumped 2.3 cents overnight to \$3.556 a gallon, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices have risen nearly 14 cents in one week.

Gas prices have advanced sharply in recent days partly because refiners have been switching over from selling winter grade gasoline to the more expensive but less pol-

luting form of the fuel the government requires them to sell in the summer. That process, which made winter grade fuel more scarce, is nearly complete now, suggesting that price increases could slow.

“That was probably why ... you saw (prices) accelerate so quickly,” said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J. “No, don’t get used to these crazy increases.”

Retail gas prices have also been following oil futures’ record rally, although prices hasn’t risen as steeply as oil futures.

“(Gas prices) had a lot of catching up to do,” said James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla., trading firms Liberty Trading Group and Option-Sellers.com.

Arby’s owner buying Wendy’s for \$2.34 billion stock deal

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—After at least two rejections, billionaire Nelson Peltz has finally succeeded in landing Wendy’s in a \$2.3 billion deal that would add the chain known for its square burger and chocolate Frosty dessert to his ownership of Arby’s and its roast beef sandwiches.

Now, the investor known for agitating corporations to boost their stock price has to figure out how to make both profitable while the economy slumps and more Americans are saving money on food and fuel by staying home to eat.

Atlanta-based Triarc Com-

panies Inc., owned by Peltz, said Thursday it will pay about \$2.34 billion in an all-stock deal for the nation’s third-largest hamburger chain started in 1969 by Dave Thomas. Wendy’s had rejected at least two buyout offers from Triarc.

Thomas’ daughter Pam Thomas Farber said the family was devastated by the news.

“It’s a very sad day for Wendy’s, and our family. We just didn’t think this would be the outcome,” said Farber, 53.

If her father were alive to hear news of the buyout, “he would not be amused,” she said.

Microsoft not ruling out Windows XP’s extension

LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE, Belgium (AP)—Microsoft Corp. CEO Steve Ballmer offered a glimmer of hope on Thursday to fans of the company’s Windows XP operating system, saying the company may reconsider its decision to stop selling it soon.

But Ballmer was adamant that most people who buy PCs today buy them with XP’s successor, Vista.

“That’s the statistical truth,” he told reporters at a news conference at Louvain-La-Neuve University. “If customer feedback varies, we can always wake up smarter.”

Fans of XP—the six-year-old operating system set to be pulled off store shelves by June 30—have plastered the Internet with blog posts, cartoons and petitions recently.

They trumpet its superiority to Vista, whose consumer launch in January was greeted with lukewarm reviews.

Ballmer said the customers buying PCs with XP are corporate information technology departments that are having trouble shifting old machines to newer technology.

Some 160,000 people already have signed an online Save XP Web petition who want Microsoft to keep selling it until the next version of Windows is released, currently targeted for 2010.

On another issue, Ballmer said he was very confident that Microsoft’s offer for Yahoo Inc. was “a very good price. Microsoft has set a Saturday deadline for Yahoo to accept its offer or face a proxy battle.

Nation

'State can take sect kids to foster homes'

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Dozens of mothers from a polygamist retreat were bused away from their children Thursday, their legal efforts to stay united rejected as Texas officials sort out their massive custody case.

Two buses took the women from the San Angelo Coliseum, where they had been temporary

ily housed with their children. Texas officials were preparing to move the last of more than 400 children to group homes, shelters and residences, some hundreds of miles away, over the next few days.

One woman held a handwritten sign out the bus window that read: "SOS. Mothers separated. Help."

In Austin, the state's Third Court of Appeals on Thursday rejected the mothers' pleas to immediately stop authorities from busing the children taken from the ranch to foster homes.

The court agreed to hear arguments Tuesday, but attorney Robert Doggett, who represents 48 mothers, said that "having a hearing after the fact" was pointless.

"It could very well be there's some good reasons to remove some of those children, absolutely," Doggett said. "But to suggest all of them be painted with this broad brush because they belong to a particular religion is a very dangerous thing, and that's why we have courts."

The Yearning For Zion Ranch in Eldorado, south of

San Angelo, was raided April 3 and is owned by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a renegade Mormon sect.

Texas officials allege that the sect encourages adolescent girls to marry older men and have children, and that boys are groomed to become future perpetrators. Sect members deny

the allegations.

Child welfare officials removed the children on suspicion of physical and sexual abuse after a family violence center received a call from a female saying she was a 16-year-old girl inside the compound whose 49-year-old husband beat and raped her. A judge awarded the state temporary custody last week.

Crackdown on illegal workers would cost US employers \$1B

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's plan to crack down on illegal workers could cost employers more than \$1 billion a year and legal workers billions in lost wages, a study commissioned by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says.

Those costs are enough to trigger a federal law that would require the Homeland Security Department to analyze more thoroughly the effect of its proposal, said Richard Belzer, a consultant hired by the chamber to do the study. It was made available to The Associated Press on Thursday.

The department's proposed "no match" rule would require employers to fire workers who can't resolve mismatches between their name and Social Security number. The chamber

opposes the proposal.

Belzer's study will be among public comments submitted to the Homeland Security Department on the proposal. The department could adopt the proposal after reviewing the comments. The deadline for comments is Friday.

Social Security sends no-match letters to employers. They often occur because someone is working illegally, but a mismatch can also take place because of typos, misspellings and name changes, among other reasons.

The Homeland Security Department issued average costs for employers based on how many employees they have and what percent might be unauthorized workers. It determined there would not be a heavy cost to employers.

5 dead as van carrying mentally disabled crashes in Pennsylvania

EIGHTY-FOUR, Pa. (AP)—A tractor-trailer slammed into a van carrying mentally disabled people on a trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo, flipping it onto its side, crushing it against a building and killing five people.

Witnesses told investigators the van stopped at an intersection and then pulled right in front of the semi on a rural highway. Crews worked for several hours Thursday to remove all

the bodies from the van. Seven people were injured.

The accident happened about 9:45 a.m. in Somerset Township, about 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, minutes after the van had left a group home in Bentleyville.

"I just think it's one of those terrible, sad freak accidents," said Lynne Loesch, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Washington County, the group home operator.



Pierre the Penguin, 25, climbs quickly out of the water while wearing his wetsuit at the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, Thursday, April 17, 2008. AP

Penguin's wetsuit puts him back in the swim of things

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—What's black and white and warm all over? A penguin in a wetsuit, naturally. Sounds like a joke, but it's quite serious for biologists at the California Academy of Sciences, who had a wetsuit created for an African penguin to help him get back in the swim of things.

Pierre, a venerable 25 years old, was going bald, which left him with an embarrassingly exposed, pale pink behind.

Unlike marine mammals, which have a layer of blubber to keep them warm,

penguins rely on their waterproof feathers. Without them, Pierre was unwilling to plunge into the academy's penguin tank and ended up shivering on the sidelines while his 19 peers played in the water.

"He was cold; he would shake," said Pam Schaller, a senior aquatic biologist at the academy.

Pierre's species of penguin is accustomed to temperate climates, unlike many of their cousins. The birds are nicknamed Jackass penguins because they make

sounds similar to braying donkeys, quite startling the first time you hear it in an aquarium.

Schaller first tried a heat lamp to keep Pierre warm. Then she got another idea: If wetsuits help humans frolic in the chilly Pacific, why not whip up one in a slightly smaller size?

Staff at Oceanic Worldwide, a supplier of dive gear based in San Leandro, were enthusiastic about making a real penguin suit.



ACROSS THE NATION

Official: Ind. student had snakes, 100 knives for plot

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—Authorities in northern Indiana say they've detained a student in a plot to attack his high school after they found more than 100 knives and several illegal snakes at his home. Prosecutor Michael Dvorak says his office is preparing to charge the teen from Mishawaka with conspiracy to commit murder. The boy is being held Thursday at a juvenile detention facility. Investigators say he was planning a mass attack at Penn High School. They say they discovered the plot while investigating an unrelated threat found in a school restroom in January.

Shots reported at 2 schools in Omaha; soccer player injured

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Omaha police say an eighth-grader was shot and wounded during a middle school soccer game. Police spokeswoman

Darci Tierney says officers are also responding to a report of shots fired Thursday at an elementary school about a mile away. Tierney says the boy was shot in the mouth at King Science and Technology Magnet School. Police are seeking a suspect. It's not clear how many shots were fired or where they came from. Tierney says the boy's injuries are serious but not life-threatening. Parents were allowed to pick up their children at King after a brief lockdown.

Test run for 2010 census is scaled back, worrying experts

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—The Census Bureau has scaled back its dress rehearsal for the once-a-decade national head count, raising fears that thousands of soldiers, immigrants and other hard-to-reach people will go uncounted when the population survey is conducted in 2010. "It's like sending up a rocket for a moon shot and not doing the

final test on how to land," warned former Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt, who oversaw the agency during the 2000 count. The dry run is now under way in two states, with more than a half-million households receiving questionnaires from the Census Bureau.

Man in custody after hostage situation reported at Pa. bank

MCKEESPORT, Pa. (AP)—Police officers have taken a man into custody outside a Pennsylvania bank where they believed hostages were being held. Police with their guns drawn handcuffed a man who walked out of the PNC bank Thursday afternoon in McKeesport. The man had his hands in the air. Local and federal authorities had responded after reports that someone was robbing the bank. There were also reports that the robber was holding hostages. Police confirmed they were dealing with a bank robbery but wouldn't com-

ment further. PNC also would not comment.

Bush administration opposes Democrats' housing rescue plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—A top housing official said Thursday that the Bush administration "strongly opposes" Democrats' housing rescue package, calling it a bailout that would expose taxpayers to excessive risk. Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Roy A. Bernardi also indicated that President Bush would veto a bill sending \$15 billion to states for the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties. The comments, in separate letters to lawmakers, were the most forceful rejection yet by the Bush administration of Democrats' housing aid plans. And they were the clearest indication to date that the White House intends to put up a vigorous fight against a bill to let the Federal Housing Administration take on as much as \$300 billion in new mortgages for financially strapped homeowners.

Asia



Five-month-old baby girls, are held by workers at an orphanage in Bac Ninh province, near Hanoi, Vietnam, Wednesday, April 23, 2008.

US alleges baby-selling in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has failed to police its adoption system, allowing corruption, fraud and baby-selling to flourish, the U.S. Embassy says in a new report obtained by The Associated Press.

The nine-page document describes brokers scouring villages for babies, hospitals selling infants whose mothers cannot pay their bills, and a

grandmother giving away her grandchild—without telling the child's mother.

"I'm shocked and deeply troubled by the worst of the worst cases," said Jonathan Aloisi, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi.

Vietnam's top adoption official called the concerns "groundless." Bribery of orphanage officials may occur,

but serious offenses such as baby-selling or kidnapping are not a problem, said Vu Duc Long, director of the Department of International Adoptions.

The dispute comes amid a boom in adoptions from Vietnam. Americans—including actress Angelina Jolie—adopted more than 1,200 Vietnamese children over the 18 months ending March 31. In 2007, adoptions surged more than 400 percent from a year earlier, with 828 Vietnamese children adopted by American families.

While China remains the most popular overseas country for adoptions, a growing number of Americans are looking to Vietnam, which has fewer restrictions. The wait for adoption approval has also gotten longer in China after authorities there tightened rules.

U.S. adoption agencies active in Vietnam said that despite some cases of wrongdoing, most adoptions in the country are ethical.

"Our experience has been a good one," said Susan Cox, vice president of public policy with Holt International Children's Services, based in Eugene, Ore., which has operated in Vietnam since the 1970s. "We are concerned about any unethical practices, but I would not agree that these cases are indicative of adoptions in Vietnam."

Other months and days were named after symbols of Turkmenistan's independence and prominent figures in Turkmen history.

President Gurbanguli Berdimukhamedov said at a government session Wednesday that he was abolishing Niyazov's calendar and returning to the Gregorian calendar widely used throughout the world.

Japan indicts US sailor in stabbing death of driver

TOKYO (AP)—Prosecutors charged a U.S. sailor Thursday in the stabbing death of a taxi driver, one of a series of alleged crimes by American service members that has stirred anger in Japan.

Olatunbosun Ugbogu, a Nigerian citizen serving in the U.S. Navy, was charged with fatally stabbing Masaaki Takahashi, 61, near a U.S. naval base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, on March 19, Yokohama District Court officials said in a statement.

The sailor, who served on the USS Cowpens, faces charges of murder, robbery and illegal possession of a weapon. Japanese police have said he confessed to the crime.

Court officials said the sailor could face a death sentence if convicted.

Ugbogu, 22, was taken into

U.S. custody March 22 after Navy authorities apprehended him in Tokyo on an earlier desertion charge. Navy and Japanese authorities first questioned him about the killing after a credit card in his name was allegedly found in the victim's car.

Ugbogu was handed over to Japanese authorities earlier this month under a bilateral security pact.

Separately Thursday, Japanese prosecutors filed an indictment against a U.S. military policeman on the southern island of Okinawa on charges of assault and theft in an attack on a taxi driver in March, Kyodo News agency reported. The U.S. military handed the officer to Japanese authorities in line with the Japan-U.S. Status of the Forces Agreement, Kyodo said.

Turkmenistan junks calendar of its eccentric ex-president

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP)—Turkmenistan's president has abolished the calendar introduced by his late predecessor, who named months after himself and his parents as part of an elaborate personality cult, state media reported Thursday.

Saparmurat Niyazov, who ruled the gas-rich former Soviet nation for 21 years, preferred

to be called Turkmenbashi, or Father of All Turkmen. In 2002, he named months after himself, his parents and his book, "Rukhnama," or "Book of the Soul," which combines epic history, moral teachings and state policy. He made the book obligatory for students and government officials and named Saturday the Rukhnama Day.

World

Al-Sadr may restart full-scale fight vs US in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Muqtada al-Sadr is considering setting aside his political ambitions and restarting a full-scale fight against U.S.-led forces—a worrisome shift that may reflect Iranian influence on the young cleric and could open the way for a shadow state protected by his powerful Mahdi Army.

A possible breakaway path—described to The Associated Press by Shiite lawmakers and politicians—would represent the ultimate backlash to the Iraqi government's pressure on al-Sadr to renounce and disband his Shiite militia.

By snubbing the give-and-take of politics, al-Sadr would have a freer hand to carve out

a kind of parallel state with its own militia and social services along the lines of Hezbollah in Lebanon, a Shiite group founded with Iran's help in the 1980s.

It also would carry potentially disastrous security implications as the Pentagon trims its troops strength and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki finally shows progress on national reconciliation.

Last week, the main Sunni political bloc announced provisional plans to rejoin the Shiited coalition nine months after quitting the government. The Sunnis are pleased with the squeeze on al-Sadr's movement as well as an amnesty law that could free many detainees.

"Muqtada has shown a great

deal of patience not calling for an all-out war yet with so much pressure on him," said Mohan Abedin, director of research at London's Center for the Study of Terrorism and an expert on Shiite affairs. "The Mahdi Army is by far the most powerful Iraqi faction. It can cause damage on a massive scale if it goes to war."

Al-Sadr's next move is still uncertain, but he clearly holds important cards.

The Mahdi Army is estimated to have about 60,000 fighters—with at least 5,000 thought to be highly trained commandos—and is emboldened by its strong resistance to an Iraqi-led crackdown launched last month in the southern city of Basra and elsewhere.

Hamas offers 6-month truce with Israel

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—The Palestinian group Hamas is proposing a six-month cease-fire with Israel, saying it will stop firing rockets out of Gaza if the Jewish state simultaneously lifts its blockade of the coastal strip, Egypt's state run MENA news agency said Thursday night.

The report followed a day of closed meetings between Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar and Egypt's intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, who has been mediating between Israel and the Islamic militant group in hopes of halting their fighting.

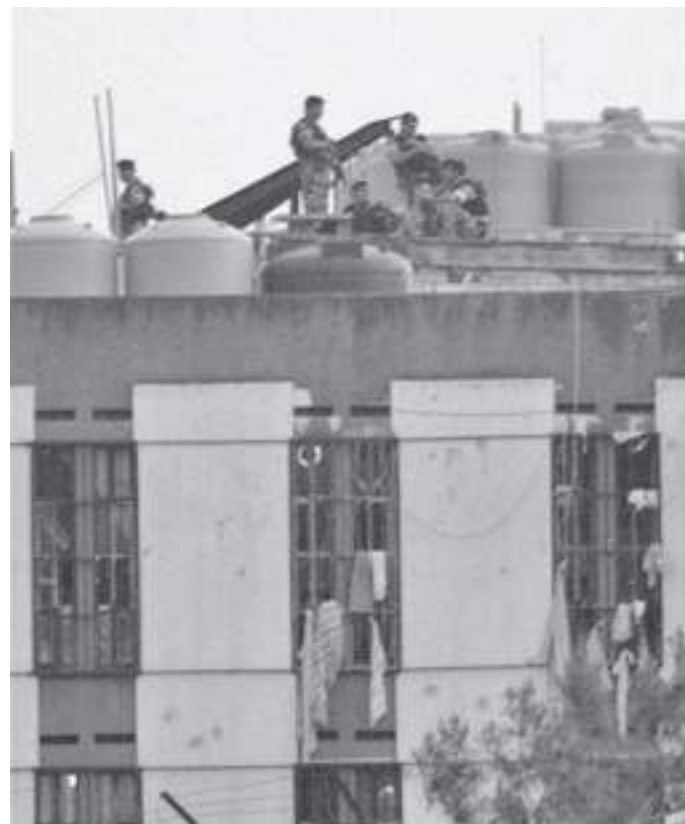
Hamas has taken a much softer stance the past week, but any deal appeared distant. While Egypt clearly is acting as a communications channel between the two sides, Israel insists it won't negotiate with Hamas, which it considers a terrorist group, as does the United States.

US: Opposition won Zimbabwe vote

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—The top U.S. envoy to Africa said Thursday that Zimbabwe's opposition leader won the nation's disputed presidential election and longtime President Robert Mugabe should step down.

The opposition claims that Morgan Tsvangirai beat Mugabe outright in the March 29 vote. Independent Zimbabwean observers also say Tsvangirai won, though not by enough to avoid a run-off.

"We think in this situation we have a clear victor," said Jendayi Frazer, assistant U.S. secretary of state for African affairs, citing the independent figures.



Lebanese policemen stand guard on the roof top of a building inside Lebanon's main jail, after dozens of inmates rioted and took hostage some of the prison guards, in Roumieh prison, east of Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday April 24, 2008.

Riot at Lebanon's largest prison

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Scores of inmates rioted in Lebanon's largest prison Thursday, taking eight guards hostage and setting prison clothing on fire to demand better conditions and shorter sentences, security officials said.

Several hours after the riots began at Roumieh prison east of Beirut, detainees were still in control of one building, surrounded by security forces, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

They said that after lengthy negotiations conducted by Police Brig. Gen. Antoine Chakour, the rioting inmates tentatively agreed to hand over the hostages and return to their

cells. In exchange, Lebanese authorities would seriously study the demands of the detainees.

However, there was no word on when such a handover would take place.

More than 3,000 men are held at Roumieh, including four former generals held in connection with the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and members of the al-Qaida-inspired Fatah Islam militant group. The officials said neither the generals nor the Fatah Islam members were near the area of the rioting.

Security reinforcements and riot police were sent to the prison, which was built 40 years ago to hold 1,000 inmates, although more than 3,000 are housed there.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

Saipan's Tuloy-Aral has 107 scholars

CNMI remains with largest number of donors

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Philippine government's Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office on Saipan reported that of the 206 scholars under the worldwide Tuloy-Aral Program, 107 students are being sponsored by Saipan-based donors comprising 55 individuals and 13 groups.

Welfare officer Leonora Mabagal said the CNMI continues to have the distinction of having the highest number of sponsors worldwide. She said the program is so thankful for the "many individuals and many groups who, despite the economic

crises, are so kind and generous to share their financial resources to the less privileged children."

The Tuloy Aral Project is an OWWA project not only in the CNMI but also in other parts of the world where there are OWWA offices. It aims to help children of former overseas Filipino workers and other needy children in the Philippines fulfill their dream of continuing their education. With the money, the children will be provided school necessities such as notebooks, pens, pads, bags, and books, among others.

Mabagal said she could never contain her excitement when sponsors tell her that they are very

willing to continue their sponsorship for the next school year.

"As a matter of fact, some of them are willing to sponsor more despite these hard times," Mabagal said.

A foster parent or sponsor donates \$100 per school year for the elementary or high school education of a selected child.

Mabagal said that she has always been a strong advocate for children's education.

"For the many children who want to go to school and learn, we try to find ways to help them. The end result of their learning is very rewarding to an individual or group sponsor," Mabagal said.

The Tuloy-Aral Project is still open to those who want to extend their assistance and help impoverished children in the Philippines. There are no requirements to extend help to the students, said Mabagal.

When an individual has expressed his or her interest in helping out, the CNMI OWWA office calls the Manila Office so that it could allot a recipient from the Philippines. The OWWA office will then notify the CNMI office to confirm the sponsorship.

For more information on how to extend assistance, donors can visit the OWWA office located at the ground floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe or call Leonora Mabagal at 235-6992.

Metro Manila's 'poorest' will have rice cards

By JOCELYN UY,
NANCY C. CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—More than 47,000 families of Metro Manila's "poorest of the poor" will have the access cards that would allow them to buy government-subsidized rice by Tuesday next week, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

These families in three priority cities and one town identified by the DSWD-National Capital Region represent 9.5 percent of the 600,000 families expected to benefit from the rice passes.

"We will be able to distribute the cards to these families by next week. Tuesday is the safest," said DSWD-NCR Assistant Director Patricia Luna in a phone interview.

She said the master list of cardholders from the four areas had been completed and its validation would be finished before Tuesday.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral has announced that an estimated 600,000 poor families in Metro Manila will benefit from the access cards.

The figure accounts for 30 percent of the population's "bottom poor families" in the 17 cities and municipalities in the metropolis.

In a separate phone interview, Cabral said poor households need no rice access cards for now because the government-subsidized rice was still available in public markets.

"The passes will be distributed to them once President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo orders the pullout of NFA rice from the markets," she told the Philippine Daily Inquirer (parent company of INQUIRER.net).



EARTH DAY

A fisherman retrieves his line after missing his target in an innovative way to catch fish using an air gun at a dump site by the banks of Laguna Lake, the country's largest freshwater lake, at Angono, Rizal province, south of Manila, Philippines. To mark the country's Earth Day celebration with water protection as its theme this year, the environmentalist group Greenpeace, took water samples from the lake and called on the government to enforce strictly the waste laws to protect the country's threatened freshwater sources. Laguna Lake is being eyed as a potential source of potable water for metropolitan Manila's more than 11 million people.

Away for 28 years, OFW will be home soon—in a coffin

By ARLYN DELA CRUZ,
CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—For 28 years he had been working overseas. Now Raymundo Dimaculangan will finally come home to Cabuyao, Laguna -- but in a box.

Dimaculangan, 53, was found brutally mutilated and dead in his quarters in Saudi Arabia last April 17. Whoever killed him and why remain unclear, but the Saudi police have arrested five suspects, all Filipinos, for their alleged involvement in the crime.

Lorna Dimaculangan, sister of Raymundo, said family members received a text message last week from his brother's co-workers at the Saudi Electricity

Company informing them that their brother had not reported for work for three days.

On April 17, worried co-workers went to Raymundo's quarters and found it locked. They also saw his service vehicle parked outside his quarters.

The co-workers, mostly fellow Filipinos, called for police assistance in opening Raymundo's quarters. When the door was finally unlocked, they found Dimaculangan's lifeless body inside.

Lorna told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that his brother had been savagely killed. Citing a text message, she said, "My brother was said to have suffered a horrible death. His leg was severed, his ribs broken and his neck slashed."

Lorna said Raymundo's

wife, Nenita, was still in shock. She saw him last in December, when her husband went home to his wife and their three children for a month-long vacation.

Based on initial police investigation in Saudi Arabia, there was no forced entry in Dimaculangan's quarters. Lorna added, "According to his co-workers, based on investigation by Saudi police, his money and belongings were all intact."

Lorna said there was a strong possibility that his brother knew who his killer was and that he was a fellow Filipino.

"When they opened the door, the police and co-workers found that food had been prepared. He had a visitor or visitors. That was the text message sent to us," she said.

LABOR FRONT

Reduction in force

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: Does an employer need to inform the Department of Labor and the affected employees about a business' planned reduction of staff.

A: Yes. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, before commencement of a reduction in force, an employer shall give at least 60 days written notice to Department of Labor and at least 30 days notice to each affected employee on the standard form provided by Labor.

■ ■ ■

Q: When an alien worker is terminated due to downsizing of staff due to bad economy, when is the effective date of his or her termination?

A: The Regulations state that the effective date of termination is a date at least 30 days after the employees to be laid off have received notice of termination due to reduction in force, downsizing, or closure of the business.

The employment contracts and work permits of laid-off foreign national workers, the Regulations state, shall terminate automatically on the effective date of termination.

■ ■ ■

Q: Which type of worker should be first laid off in case of downsizing of force?

A: According to the Regulations, the employer shall lay off more recently arrived foreign national workers before laying off longer-term alien workers in the same job classification except as agreed with Labor.

The employer, however, shall lay off foreign workers before laying off U.S. citizen or permanent resident workers in the same job classification except as agreed with Labor for important business reasons.

The employer should allow representatives from Labor to meet with the employees to be laid off on employer premises during work hours. The purpose of the meeting is to advise the employees of their rights and responsibilities in connection with the lay-off, and to answer their questions.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

Philippines firm ordered to pay \$100M for fraud

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A federal judge on Thursday ordered a Philippines company to pay back \$100 million it swindled from the U.S. military's health insurance program.

Health Visions Corp., which pleaded guilty to mail fraud, was ordered to liquidate all assets within 10 months and give the proceeds to the U.S. government.

Federal prosecutors say the company bilked the military's Tricare program out of \$99.9 million between 1998 and 2004. The program insures 9.2 million current and retired servicemen and dependents worldwide.

The company routinely inflated claims by more than 230 percent, operated a phony in-

surance program and billed for medical services never delivered, court records showed, and the Pentagon moved slowly to uncover the scheme.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Jarosz described Health Visions as the biggest violator yet in a long-running investigation into Tricare fraud in the Philippines.

"This is basically a death sentence for the company. It will no longer exist and that will protect the Tricare program since it was the biggest violator," he said after the hearing. "We got what we needed out of this prosecution."

The United States closed its military bases in the Philippines in 1992 and withdrew its active-duty forces, but thousands of retirees remained.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P42.067

RP military on track to end insurgency by 2010

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military chief said Wednesday the armed forces were on track to crush a 39-year-old communist insurgency in two years.

The military “is heading toward the direction of achieving the target set by the president,” Chief of Staff Gen. Hermo-

genes Esperon told reporters after meeting with army, navy, air force and marine commanders.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered the military to defeat the communist insurgency by the end of her term in 2010.

Esperon said rebel strength has dropped from 5,781 armed

guerrillas in December 2007 to 5,470 in the first quarter of this year due to battlefield losses, surrenders and desertions. Active guerrilla fronts fell from 87 to 69 while 14 top communist leaders have been killed or captured, he said.

With such setbacks, the communist New People’s

Army was expected to resort to assassinations of military and police personnel and to intensify ambushes and extortion, he said.

Marking its 39th anniversary last month, the New People’s Army issued a statement vowing to take advantage of rising food prices to

stir up public discontent and to “launch far more tactical offensives against the enemy than last year.”

They said they conducted more than 500 attacks last year.

The rebels have waged a rural-based insurrection, attacking police and military outposts and surviving on extortion through

the collection of so-called “revolutionary taxes” from companies active in areas where they hold ground.

The rebels withdrew from peace talks in 2004 after accusing Arroyo’s government of instigating their inclusion on U.S. and European Union terrorist lists.

88 Filipinas in UAE await repatriation

MANILA (INQUIRER.net)—Five of them may have gone home, but 88 more women overseas Filipino workers in the United Arab Emirates are awaiting repatriation.

Fennie Tiletile, one of the five overseas workers who went home Thursday due to alleged maltreatment from her Arab employer, said that 88 other OFWs, all females, who suffered the same fate as hers, are still in the Philippine embassy in the UAE waiting for help from Manila.

Tiletile said that she had to run away from her employer because she was overworked yet underpaid. For three months, she sought refuge at the Philippine embassy in the UAE until her repatriation.

“Dapat 600 dirhams (about P6600) ang bayad sa akin kada buwan, pero sa dalawang buwan, 850 dirhams lang ang natanggap ko (about P9350) (I

was supposed to receive 600 dirhams per month, but I got only 850 dirhams for two months),” Tiletile said.

She added that they had to work from 6:30 in the morning or earlier every day, and was only allowed to sleep at midnight.

Lea Malunes, on the other hand, went to Abu Dhabi to work as caregiver, but she ended up being a housemaid.

Malunes said that her employer paid her 700 dirhams (about P7700) per month, less than half of the 2000 dirhams (about P22000) she was supposed to receive as specified in her contract.

Senate President Manuel Villar, who received the OFWs upon their arrival and who sponsored their trip back home, said that support from the Philippine embassy in UAE is needed to bring the remaining distressed workers back to the country.

Arroyo bats for Tubbataha, Chocolate Hills for ‘7 wonders’

MANILA (INQUIRER.net)—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has pitched for the inclusion of three of the country’s sites into the ongoing search for the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Arroyo said she visited the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan to campaign for the site, which as of Friday was number seven among the 77 candidates ranked through Internet-based voting.

Arroyo took a break from work Thursday and went diving in the popular diving spot.

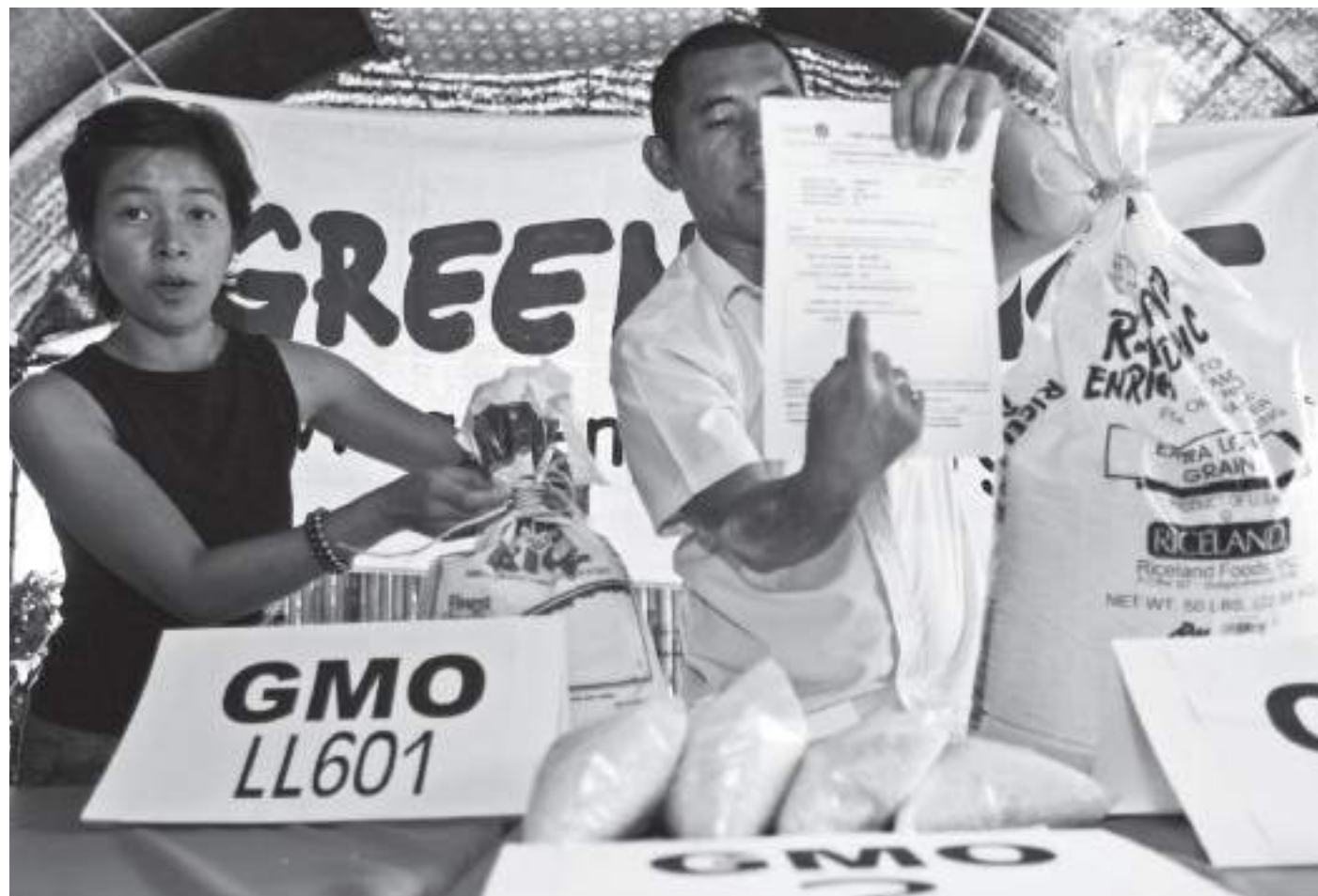
“We need all Filipinos who are working here and abroad to vote,” Arroyo said in an interview with the local media

in Negros Oriental, which was aired Friday over government station Radyo ng Bayan.

Aside from the Tubbataha Reef, Arroyo also campaigned for Chocolate Hills in Bohol and the underground river in Palawan, which she said were ranked ninth and 20th respectively.

In the website www.new7wonders.com, however, Tubbataha Reef is the only Philippine site in the top 77 as of April 25.

The site said that the vote is on until Dec. 31, 2008, after which the top 77 nominees would be submitted to a panel of experts that would put together a shortlist of 21 finalists by January 2009.



PROTEST VS GMO RICE

Danilo Ocampo, right, a genetic engineering campaigner of the environmental group Greenpeace, shows an analysis report as he displays sacks of US long grain rice that made it to the shelves of a high-end supermarket chain in the Philippines which allegedly has been confirmed to be contaminated with GMO (genetically-modified organism) during a news conference Thursday, April 24, 2008, at Manila’s Quezon city. In their statement, Greenpeace, which is awaiting results of the tests conducted on government-distributed US rice, is demanding the government to “protect the country’s staple food from unsafe and unproven GMO technologies by stringently testing US rice imports and rejecting GMO rice varieties.” At left is another campaigner Lea Guerrero.

RP posts narrower budget deficit in Q1

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government recorded a narrower budget deficit in the first quarter due to stronger revenue and lower spending, leading the finance secretary to predict Thursday that the country will be able to balance its books this year.

The budget deficit for March

stood at 18.6 billion pesos (US\$444 million), compared to 33.4 billion pesos posted a year earlier.

For the first three months, the Philippines reported a deficit of 51.6 billion (US\$1.2 billion), below the 60.2 billion peso (US\$1.4 billion) ceiling for the period, data showed.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government expects to post budget surpluses in the last three quarters and meet its goal of a balanced budget this year.

“The biggest challenge is in the second quarter (surplus) because we want to front-load spending in the

first half,” he said.

Officials earlier said they had doubts the budget would be balanced this year, citing the need for an increase in spending on infrastructure to help the economy cope with rising commodity prices and a slowdown in the U.S., the country’s main trading partner.

Malaysia to pull out monitors from Philippines next month

By JULIA ZAPPEI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia will start pulling out its cease-fire monitors from the southern Philippines next month, the government said Thursday, signaling impatience at stalled peace talks between Manila and Muslim separatist rebels.

Brunei—the other main contributor to the Malaysia-led peacekeeping team in the southern Philippines—has reportedly said it will withdraw its monitors if Malaysia does. There was no immediate comment from Brunei on Thursday.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib

Razak said Malaysia will start a “phased withdrawal” of its personnel from the violence-scarred Philippine island of Mindanao next month.

Malaysia contributes the majority of about 60 troops, police and other officers safeguarding a 2003 cease-fire between the Philippine military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

“We need to show that we cannot and we should not be there as part of the international monitoring team indefinitely,” Najib told reporters. “There has to be some degree of finality in terms of our presence there.”

Najib urged Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to step up efforts to reach a per-

manent peace deal, adding that Malaysia’s military chief will visit the Philippines by the end of this month to formally convey Malaysia’s decision.

An initial batch of 21 Malaysian troops will leave the southern Philippines on May 10, leaving about 30 personnel to remain for some time, Najib said.

He did not say when the pull-out would be completed, but Foreign Minister Rais Yatim recently said Malaysia does not plan to send any more personnel after the mandate of the current team expires in September.

The monitoring team, which has been led by Malaysia since 2004, also has 10 military of-

ficers from Brunei and several diplomatic and economic personnel from Libya and Japan.

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis told The Associated Press in Manila that his government was still waiting for information from Malaysia.

Mohagher Iqbal, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front’s chief negotiator, accused the Philippine government of “just playing around with the peace process” and paving the way for the Malaysian withdrawal.

“We will not plead with the Malaysians to reconsider their decision,” he said. “They were hurt. They feel they are being betrayed by the noncooperation of the government.”

JAL ordered to pay Filipino bumped off flight in 1992

By FRANK CIMATU
NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—The Supreme Court has ordered Japan Airlines to pay P800,000 to a Filipino whom it bumped off one of its flights in 1992 on suspicion the man had a fake visa en route to the United States to donate a kidney to an ailing cousin.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Ruben Reyes, the court’s third division denied a petition by JAL asking the high court to reverse a September 2000 ruling by a lower court in favor of Jesus Simangan.

The high court, however, reduced by more than half the P1.75 million in damages and attorney’s fees that Judge Floro Alejo of the Valenzuela City Regional Trial Court had awarded Simangan.

In the April 22 ruling, the high court ordered JAL to pay Simangan P600,000 in damages and P200,000 in attorney’s fees, not counting interest of six percent per annum from the time of the lower court’s judgment in 2000.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Preggy Aubrey Miles denies drug use rumor

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Aubrey Miles and Troy Montero are infanticipating!

“I’m going on my fifth month,” beamed Aubrey. “We never denied it. We’re just not the kind of couple who would announce every event.”

It’s Troy who has cravings and mood swings, she said. “Parang siya ang naglilihi. All I crave is Boy Bawang with vinegar.”

Marriage will have to wait till she gives birth and loses weight, though. Aubrey, who has always been a health buff, still exercises even now that she’s preggy. That’s why the nasty rumor about her sniffing cocaine in a Makati club shocked her.

“I drink and smoke occasionally but I was never into drugs,” she said. “Troy and I planned this pregnancy. He’s been begging me for a baby so it’s crazy naman na ngayon pa ako mag-drugs. Why would I ruin our longtime dream?”

Aubrey’s life is now centered on preparing for their “bundle of Troy.”

Guess who

AN ACTRESS who’s having trouble on the domestic front lamented to a colleague: “Ang hirap pag na-realize mo na ang



Aubrey Miles

hinihintay mong mahal ay di na babalik. Kahit ilang beses niya sabihin na mahal niya ako, di ko na maramdaman.”

Is it a case of leaving without a goodbye? Or saying goodbye without leaving?

Aga sizzles

MANILA, Philippines—Aga Muhlach is pushing 40 but he doesn’t look a day older than his 23-year-old leading lady Anne Curtis. He sizzles anew in his latest movie for Star Cinema and Viva Films, “When Love Begins,” which opens April 30.

Aga’s character is an architect who meets free-spirited Anne Curtis in Boracay. They fight their own demons to prove that their passion is not just a fleeting emotion.

I cornered Aga’s cool dad Tito

Cheng about Morning’s (Aga’s pet name) love quirks. He recounted: “When he was single, alam ko pag may date siya kasi naliligo ng pabango. Pati kotse niya sobrang bango. Pero mahirap mahalata pag in love na siya kasi di siya kiss-and-tell type. One of the crazy things he did for love was when he sent a girl so many flowers in one day.”

With every new role, Aga’s attack is fresh, like his nickname. Even if you’re not an Aga fanatic, his new movie will make you start to love him.

Imperfectly perfect

Ogie Alcasid gave his honey Regine Velasquez a Chanel bag for her birthday. Anything he wants to change in her? “She’s imperfectly perfect for me,” Ogie replied. “Actually, she’s the one who adjusts to me. That makes me love her more.”

Ogie’s other loves (daughters Leila and Sarah) are coming soon from Australia. He’s taking them to Hong Kong Disneyland. The magic of Disney is nothing compared to Ogie and Regine’s happy-ever-after.

Show and tell

Someone privy to a top actor’s colorful past couldn’t stop laughing when he heard a TV host brag on the air that the actor used to court her.

Paolo Bediones lands ‘Survivor’

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—All that Paolo Bediones is asking is to have Internet connection on the remote island where the Philippine version of the US reality show “Survivor” will most probably be shot.

Explains Bediones, who landed the coveted “Survivor” hosting gig on GMA 7: “I need e-mail, to keep in touch with my business partners in Manila (for such ventures as a dental clinic and a production house). If we can’t bring cell phones, a satellite phone would do.”

Apart from those two urban luxuries, Bediones is ready to rough it.

“For 39 days, the staff and I will be living in conditions similar to those of the 16 castaways,” he notes.

He says he’s willing to make the same sacrifices as the contestants. “Some of them will need to quit or take a leave from their jobs. They won’t see their family for over a month.”

Same with Bediones who also has to give up several jobs. “My other show, ‘Tok! Tok! Tok! Isang Milyon, Pasok,’ will go on a break next month and resume airing in August,” he says.

Before embarking on the trip, Bediones and the 100-man crew

will undergo survival training, as well as rigorous medical and physical examinations.

The contestants will also take the same battery of tests, says Bediones. “A psychologist will be on board to assess the cast-offs. We want to make sure that they’ll be able to cope with the show’s physical and mental demands. We don’t want to cast a potential serial killer and literally turn the show into a game of survival.”

Criteria for host

Number one criterion for the host, says program manager Neil B. Gumban, is “physical fitness.” Since Bediones anchored the GMA 7 reality contest “Extra Challenge” for two and a half years, Gumban says the former model is “perfect” as host of the “world’s most unique social experiment.”

“‘Extra Challenge’ gave me the foundation, in terms of building credibility,” recalls Bediones. “On that show, I would often do the same stunts required of our celebrity-contestants—like rappelling down the GMA 7 building.”

Another requirement is the willingness to pore over the 169-page production bible of the world-famous franchise. “It was a chance to learn from a show that has become a worldwide suc-

cess,” Bediones says. “It’s exciting to find out how they did it.”

He admits he’s a “big fan” of the US series hosted by Jeff Probst. “I’ve seen most of the episodes,” he relates.

He has no specific dream destination for “RP Survivor.” He points out, “Since we’re just starting, perhaps we should set it in familiar territory. It would be great to work in a tropical location with a beach where the contestants can perform the different challenges.”

At press time, GMA 7 has yet to decide whether to set it locally or abroad (which is the tradition).

Possibilities

According to executive producer Donna Medina, other international editions of “Survivor” have been shot in the Philippines. “Twice in El Nido, Palawan, and we heard ‘Survivor France’ was recently shot in Camarines Sur.”

The Philippines, says Medina, is the second Oriental “Survivor” after Japan. (Although there were also versions in Pakistan, Israel and the Middle East.)

Bediones asserts: “Perhaps in future editions, we can go to Africa and Australia. Or even Antarctica and turn it into a game of how many toes you can keep by the end of the show.”

“Ilusyunada ang babaeng yan! The actor was just being friendly to her, till he noticed that he was just being shown off by the host. So when she asked him to bring her to church one day, he just dropped her off and told her to call when she was done.” Show-and-Tell Girl meets Shove-and-To-Hell-With-You Guy!

Off-color joke

Robin Padilla was irked by Rico Puno’s green joke on SOP last Sunday. Binoe was on remote live broadcast from Dagupan while Rico was in the GMA 7 studio.

Rico teased Ogie after Binoe greeted Regine. “Parang umiba ang mukha mo nung bumabati si Binoe ah. Mas mahaba ka naman dun!”

Binoe quipped: “Paalala lang kay kapatid na Rico J. Dapat uminom siya ng Revicon Forte kasi mahina na ’ata ang memory niya. Nakalimutan niyang maraming batang nanonood.”

Surprise treat

Liezl Martinez surprised her hubby Albert for his birthday. “He wanted to stay home, but the kids and I bugged him to watch a movie in Shang,” Liezl said. “We took him to Discovery Suites. When we got to our room, his friends

were all there.

“I gave him a Rudy Project racing bike helmet, iPod nano video and a book on classic cars. Next day we went diving in Batangas.” The Martinezes have really dived into the sea of love.

Beautiful girls

Love them or hate them, Claudine Barretto, Ruffa Gutierrez, Gretchen Barretto and Judy Ann Santos are still the most beautiful faces of their time. See them through the eyes of the people closest to them in the April issue of Preview. Wonder why the equally gorgeous Dawn Zulueta and Angel Aquino were “shampooed” off the ad. Hair today, gone tomorrow?

PERSONAL FINANCE

Before you say goodbye to bachelorhood

INQUIRER.net

Question: My girlfriend and I have been together for the past four years. We’d like to get married, of course, but when I think about the financial responsibility looming before me (e.g., have a big wedding, book a nice honeymoon spot, build a house, raise kids, etc.), I get overwhelmed. I only make enough for my lifestyle now. How can I support a family? What do you think should a bachelor prepare for financially before thinking of marriage?—Dan

Answer: Dan, you are on the right track. The fact that you are counting the costs before taking the big plunge shows that you are a responsible man. Sad to say, there are many who go into marriage hastily without determining first how prepared they are mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and financially.

It is true: marriage is expensive, and we’re not just talking about the wedding. To embark on a new life together with one’s spouse means starting a family unit. That means the bulk of the financial burden rests on the husband — society dictates that he should support his family’s needs from food, clothing, and shelter, to education and health care, among others.

Given that you make only enough to support your lifestyle, it is easy to understand why you are overwhelmed with the whole idea. But if you wait for the day when you have enough wealth to last a lifetime, you may find that your bride-to-be has decided to stop waiting.

How do you know when you’re financially ready? Below are our guidelines on how to determine your financial readiness for marriage:

1. You have a stable job.

That means you are a regular employee, not on a contractual or probationary basis, and that you

see a career path for you upward in your company. Or, if you are self-employed practicing your profession or running your own business, your practice or business is already stable and has been bringing in steady income for a number of years already.

Why is this important? This will ensure a steady income stream for you and your family. And this income has the potential to even grow over the years.

2. You have enough savings.

That means you do not live from paycheck to paycheck. But just how much is enough? You have enough savings to start a family and plunge into marriage when you have built up savings to cover at least six months’ worth of your projected family expenses. This is your emergency fund.

Apart from the emergency fund, you should have also shored up a substantial fund to finance a simple wedding ceremony and reception.

3. You know how to manage your money.

Don’t think that it will be up to the wife to manage the family funds. You have to know how to manage money yourself.

And how does one manage money well? Here are the musts:

a. You are not in deep debt. If ever you are in debt, payments for it must not go over a third of your monthly take home pay. Beyond this, you are in a not-so-safe mode, so defer marriage until you have paid off or pared down your debt.

b. You know how to budget. That means you don’t splurge your earnings, but set aside money for savings and other essential costs before spending anything else. You know your priorities, and that also means you don’t buy impulsively.

Now even if you have passed the test of financial readiness, you might still be fidgety about

the forthcoming wedding expenses and keep asking yourself, “Can I afford it?”

Well the good news is, people are more enlightened now and it matters more that you have a stable life after the wedding, rather than have a big wedding now and hardly have enough funds for day-to-day expenses for the next two years.

You might both agree to have a simpler wedding than initially planned. To save on costs, have a breakfast reception rather than a dinner reception, for instance. Book a small chapel rather than a cathedral. Instead of having the reception at a five-star hotel, choose an intimate restaurant or party venue. Have a simple program rather than an all-night long dance party with a popular band. Go to a local vacation spot rather than travel abroad for your honeymoon. There are many ways to save on costs.

If you feel that your funds are still not enough for a nice wedding, talk to your wedding sponsors. In lieu of traditional wedding gifts, they might consider footing the bill for some expenses.

And to help with the cost of building a new life together, encourage your wife-to-be, if she is not working now, to get a job or start a small business. Any added income, no matter how small, will help your future family be more stable financially sooner.

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Maharlika – Opinyon

Letters to the Editor

Rice importation: Embarrassing, indeed!

Editor's Note: The following were originally published in the April 25, 2008, edition of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The letter titled “An embarrassing reality” (Inquirer, 4/15/08) is so true. We have vast agricultural lands. We have a climate that is conducive to rice production.

Not only are we a rice-producing country; foreigners come to the Philippines to study how to produce more rice; and yet, we are importing this prime commodity.

Philip Garcia
via email

Small village is big name in illegal drugs

Our village is one of the smallest in our town, but it has a big name in the illegal drugs market.

In this locality, drug pushers and addicts get their supplies at a “buying station” operated by a notorious hoodlum. Many times in the past, Pugad Lawin has been raided by law enforcement agencies, but after every raid, the buying station gets bigger and manages to expand its operations. This only goes to show that the raiders, after their raids, became the partners of the drug traffickers.

Ligorio GM Naval
Alima, Bacoar, Cavite

The ‘Bolante enigma’

Every time and everywhere the name “Jocjoc” Bolante is mentioned, sneers and jeers permeate the air. The name has become synonymous not really with “fertilizer that giveth life” but more with scum that stinks to high heavens.

What has happened to this otherwise honorable man who used to rule the roost among the Rotarians in this country? The Rotary Club is a very prestigious institution that stands for TRUTH in more ways than “4.”

Why has he allowed his precious name to be dragged into the muck and be besmirched like this? Why has he let himself be used as a doormat just so the people he is protecting can strut around like peacocks? Is it the money he was allegedly allowed to stash abroad to live the life of the rich and infamous? “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?”

What is it about serving President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that makes otherwise honorable, respectable and decent men willing to suffer the loss of all honor, self-respect and common decency? The brazenness and sheer inanity of their defense of Ms Arroyo and her family’s insatiable greed for power and wealth are absolutely mind-boggling.

Steve Y. Verspera, Esq.
via email

Low credibility bodes ill for Arroyo riding out crisis

Ill winds of summer portentous of the government’s capacity to ride out the gathering storm over the spiraling food prices are blowing from the opinion polls.

The portents come from the March 28-31 Social Weather Stations survey which found that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s net satisfaction rating had dropped to -26 percent in the first quarter, down from the 2005 levels when the administration was rocked by the so-called Garci tapes political crisis, which eroded the legitimacy of her administration.

The dip could not have come at a worse time for the government when it faces the dangerous threat of public unrest exploding into violence over the rising price of rice. It signifies that the government is critically short of political capital and of public confidence needed to calm public anxiety over rice shortage in the coming three months of lean rice supply.

The lengthening queues of poor customers at the National Food Authority outlets selling government-subsidized price at P18.25 a kilo are growing restless as panic buying sets in to stock up supply for the lean months. These tensions in the rice queues have fanned fears of rioting similar to those that have erupted in recent months in parts of Asia and Africa by the poor badly hit by high food prices, pushed up by food shortages.

The SWS survey found that the President’s March 28-31 ratings were below those of the past two years, which ranged between -12 and -33 percent, and was more in line with her 2005 ratings. Her ratings declined outside Manila, the center of political unrest against the administration since the disputed 2004 presidential elections.

In the Visayas, Ms Arroyo’s electoral bailiwick, her net satisfaction rating dropped to double digits, -15 percent, down from -9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007. For the rest of Luzon, excluding Metro Manila, her net satisfaction rating dropped to -25 percent in the first quarter from -12 percent, while in Mindanao, it dropped to -33 percent from -20 percent.

The survey found that the President had also lost ground in rural areas where her net satisfaction rating dropped to -26 percent from -8 percent. In the urban areas, the drop was more slight, to -27 from -23 percent. These ratings have been attributed to the Garci tapes scandal and to a number of corruption scandals.

Letters

Sanjeep Lanjilal had a very nice letter last Tuesday. It was a comment on Romeo Encarnacion’s earlier letter, which appeared Thursday last week in the Letters section, titled, “With so many talents and skills, why is RP a basket case? .” In that letter Encarnacion, who had worked in the United States for many years, suggested that the answer to his question is that “we remain a people focused on religion and politics and corruption.”

Kanjilal has another take on it. He is an Indian who has lived here for some time. He too, he says, comes from a country that is home to corruption. But his country has progressed while the Philippines has not for a couple of reasons. One is that we rely on imports instead of producing our own goods. His breakfast here consists of items made elsewhere. “[In India] I never came upon a breakfast item that was not made in India... The Philippines has a huge pool of cheap labor. The government and the people should insist that basic goods be produced locally. That will create jobs, save precious foreign exchange, and protect the nation from external dependencies.”

Two is that we Filipinos seem to have a very low self-esteem, constantly awed by America. “Having lived in India until the age of 26, I could feel the Indian people’s high national pride... Many Indians, just like many Filipinos, are going abroad every day, but the Indian exodus has not hampered India’s progress.”

My sympathies lie with Kanjilal. I’ve said pretty much the same things at various times. What he calls “national pride” I’ve called a “sense of country.” That is what other countries have and that is what we do not have. That’s our albatross. I’ve said it each time Filipino officials praise variously Singapore’s authoritarianism, Thailand’s monarchy, China’s communism, America’s liberalism, Europe’s parliamentarism, Japan’s corporate socialism, and Korea’s eclecticism, and wonder if we shouldn’t adopt one or the other system to get us going. Those countries in fact may have different systems but they have one thing in common: They have pride, they have a sense of country. We want to adopt anything, we

Result of tough decisions

The administration has brushed off these perennially rock-bottom negative ratings as consequences of tough decisions that had led to dramatic gains in economic growth.

It has asked the public to focus on these gains, most of all, the 7.3-percent gross domestic product in 2007, the highest achieved by the country in 30 years.

The administration said the President “takes comfort in knowing that our country is on the move” and claimed that “people are benefiting from [these reforms and gains].” If this argument had failed to lift her net satisfaction rating, there is even more doubt now over whether it is effective to provide her with the political capital she badly needs to avert a potentially explosive crisis posed by the increasingly angry and impatient queues at public rice distribution centers.

The rice queues represent an entirely different set of issues from those involving allegations of election vote-rigging and corruption. They hit the jugular of the poor – their stomachs and pockets.

The new survey results came amid reports that the government was meeting difficulties in procuring emergency rice supplies from the tightening rice export market to meet immediate local buffer needs.

Arroyo job on the line

These followed dire predictions from Darren Cooper, a senior economist with the International Grains Council in London, that the Philippines is expected to pay around \$1,000 per metric ton, cost and freight, at last week’s tender and might pay an even higher price at its next tender in May.

“It will be \$1,500 to \$1,600 in May,” he said. “They have to feed the population. The President’s job is on the line.” This remark disturbed the administration because it hit a raw nerve represented by the desperate effort of the government to procure emergency rice supplies to avert street disorders.

Doubtful supply

At no time since the 2005 crisis sparked by the Garci tapes has the President faced a more volatile crisis brewing from the threat of being overthrown by violence from hungry poor people at the rice rationing lines. This has forced the administration to issue a statement that

should adopt that.

It’s not the system, it’s the attitude. The system is variable, the attitude is not.

National pride or sense of country alone won’t guarantee progress, but the lack of it will most assuredly guarantee no progress. It’s not sufficient but it’s necessary, to borrow a phrase from Logic 101. You have no national pride or sense of country, you won’t particularly care what happens to your country. The Tagalog word is “malasakit,” and it suggests more than caring, it suggests compassion, solicitousness, love. That is a feeling you have for people and places you have a real relationship with. You have no pride or sense of country, you will not have malasakit for your country—and vice versa. That is our one glaring fault. Our own elite, whence comes our leaders, studied in the US, have kids studying in the US, have properties in the US. At the end of the day, or when this country goes to the dogs or is overrun by revolution, whichever comes first, they’ll live in the US. Why should they mind despoiling the country?

The other problems are derivative. Take corruption. Other countries have corruption, too, but both the quantity and quality of their corruption are different from ours.

Quantity-wise, well, we’re now the most corrupt country in Asia. You have no malasakit for your country, you’ll rip it off any which way you can. Some more than others—and the current rulers are the worst by far since Marcos. Quality-wise, other countries have “patriotic” crooks, ours add treason to greed. The corrupt of other countries keep their loot at home, thereby giving jobs to their countrymen and helping their countries produce their own goods. The corrupt of this country stash their loot abroad, thereby forcing their countrymen to look for jobs elsewhere and the national treasury to cough up whatever money they have not yet stolen to import goods.

The dependence on imports is derivative, too, and comes from the same lack of pride and sense of country. It is the same attitude Blanche Dubois in “A Streetcar Named Desire” held in life, which is to get by through

ANALYSIS

By AMANDO DORONILA
Philippine Daily Inquirer



the tight supply of rice worldwide would “not cause riots and unrest” in the country. It assured the people of a “stable supply and its efficient distribution.”

The assurance of a “stable supply” became doubtful as NFA officials reported last week that international rice traders that had told Filipino officials at Thursday’s tender there was no more rice available to fill the Philippines’ orders. Press reports said traders were seeking a price higher than \$872.50 to \$1,220 per ton offered by the NFA. At that offer, the landed cost of imported rice would hit almost P49 a kilo, an NFA official said.

The Philippines has secured contracts for the supply of about 1.1-1.2 million metric tons, which is expected to arrive within the first half of the year. The NFA seeks to import 2.1 million MT to fill the local production shortfall to meet the country’s ride needs for 2008. A new tender is scheduled on May 5 for the delivery of 500,000 MT to meet the immediate short-term needs to avert shortages.

Calm deceiving

Surprisingly so far, there have been no calls for the resignation of the President, as there were in 2005. But this calm can be deceiving. The volatility of the unrest at the rice lines is such it needs only a minor scuffle to spark rioting. That’s what Darren Cooper of IGC meant when he warned that the President’s job “is on the line.”

This is what makes the emergency procurement represented by the tenders in May extremely critical. But this situation has caught the government ill-prepared with any political capital of public confidence to avert a full-blown violent explosion on the rice lines.

Its credibility is at rock bottom.

THERE’S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
Philippine Daily Inquirer



the kindness of strangers. Except that we just got a new-fangled name for it, which is “globalization.” Presumably it’s cheaper and wiser to rely even for food on other countries than to produce it ourselves, even though we have some of the most arable lands in the world, a monumental folly the current rice crisis has just violently exposed. We’re still dependent and we’re still tied to the apron strings of America, and we’ve found a new way of saying it: We’re now “globalized.”

That is also why the Indian exodus hasn’t hampered India’s progress and why the Filipino exodus has hampered Philippine progress. At the very least, the Indian exodus is not premised on the disappearance of local industry, the Filipino exodus is. The remittances of overseas Indian workers are tonic to the Indian economy, they are the lifeblood of the Philippine economy. At the very most, the Indian exodus is not depleting the country of its best and brightest, the Filipino exodus is. For most Indians, living abroad is a last resort, for most Filipinos living abroad is a first resort. In fact, for many Filipinos, living abroad begins well before they leave their country. They are strangers in their own land, they are exiles in their own home.

“I believe,” says Kanjilal, “that the day the Filipinos wake up and take charge of their situation and take less pride in being a balikbayan than in being a Filipino, the day when the Philippines will become another ‘Asian tiger’ won’t be far away.”

How to get to that? Ah, but that’s another story, or column.

Maharlika – Samu’t Sari



WEDDING RECEPTION
Newlyweds Douglas and Emily Hanson gather for a photo with close friends during their wedding reception at Bayview Apartments in Dandan village Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Newlyweds Douglas and Emily Hanson with co-workers and friends.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Douglas and Emily Hanson celebrate their special day with friends.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Close friends grace Douglas and Emily Hanson's wedding reception.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Newlyweds Douglas and Emily with friends and co-workers during the wedding party.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Douglas and Emily Hanson pose for a photo after providing good dinner and music for their guests.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Pacific Islands Club's staff and guests with the newlyweds.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Newlyweds Douglas and Emily Hanson with PIC's Fat Joy Slim band and friends.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Emily Gonzales Hanson strikes a pose with her bridesmaid Alex.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Newlyweds Douglas and Emily Hanson cut the cake during their wedding reception at Bayview Apartments in Dandan village Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Youngstyle

The catch with carbon

By **DAN STILLMAN**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Carbon is called the building block of life. All living things are made of carbon—it is in the air, in plants and animals, even inside you. Carbon is the fourth-most abundant element known to naturally occur on Earth, after hydrogen, helium and oxygen.

Carbon atoms are constantly moving among the ground, atmosphere, ocean and living things. But the total amount of carbon in the world never changes. Many scientists say there's a very good chance that too much carbon in the air is causing a dangerous rise in Earth's temperature.

This warming is melting polar ice and changing where plants and animals live. Continued warming is likely to cause weather to be more extreme and sea levels to rise. Some of the potential impacts could be positive, but most probably will be negative, experts say.

We rely on carbon as a source of energy—allowing us to turn on lights, run machines and computers, and make automobiles and airplanes go. Most of this energy is created by burning coal, oil or natural gas. These

The Carbon Cycle

Carbon dioxide — made up of carbon and oxygen — is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. Without it and other greenhouse gases, Earth would be a frozen planet. However, excess carbon dioxide in the air can warm the planet too much. Here's a simple explanation of how the cycle works:

1. Plants use carbon dioxide and sunlight to make their own food and to grow. The carbon becomes part of the plant.
2. Animals eat the plants and absorb the carbon. Animals also return carbon dioxide into the air when they breathe.
3. Animals that eat the plant-eaters use the carbon for their own needs.
4. When an animal dies, carbon is returned to the soil when the body decomposes.
5. Plants and animals that die and are buried can, over millions of years, turn into fossil fuels such as coal and oil.
6. When we burn fossil fuels, carbon is then released into the atmosphere.



are called fossil fuels, because they are the remnants of plants and animals that died millions of years ago.

Over time, the dead plants and animals mixed together and became buried deeper and deeper below the ground or ocean floor. Eventually, the resulting pressure and heat

changed the mixture into solid (coal), liquid (oil) and gas (natural gas) materials.

All the while, the carbon bonds that existed inside the plants and animals when they were alive stayed intact. It's important to know that carbon bonds quite easily with itself and with other atoms, and these

bonds are hard to break—so hard that carbon bonds inside living things remain long after the living thing dies.

Only by extracting these fuels and burning them do we break the bonds. Energy is released as the free carbon atoms make new attachments.

On the face of it, carbon

A BRIGHT IDEA

How can you help control carbon?

You can replace light bulbs at home with special bulbs that use less energy. You also can try to use less heat in the winter and less air conditioning in the summer. And you can turn off lights, TVs and other electronic devices when you're not using them. *(The Washington Post)*

CARBON FOOTPRINT FACT

Capping carbon emissions would cost U.S. households less than 1 cent per dollar earned over the next two decades, says the Environmental Defense Fund, a group that works on environmental issues. *(The Washington Post)*

seems like a great source of energy. There are a few catches, though.

Not only could fossil fuels run out some day, but when coal, oil or natural gas are burned, many of the freed carbon atoms bond with two oxygen atoms to form carbon dioxide, or CO₂. This carbon dioxide stays in the air for many years and traps heat in the atmosphere.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a scientific group affiliated with the United Nations, says the chance is greater than 90 percent that this extra carbon dioxide in the air is responsible for much of Earth's rising temperatures since the mid-1950s.

The IPCC also says it's likely that global temperatures will rise even faster in the future un-

less we slow down the amount of carbon put into the air.

Energy can also be captured from the sun, wind and flowing water. These and other "clean" energy sources put less carbon in the air, and we don't have to worry about running out of them.

But it costs more to make energy from these sources than it does from coal, oil or natural gas. Some people wonder if it's worth spending money when scientists aren't 100 percent sure why the planet is warming or how much it will warm in the future.

Others say that it's better to be safe than sorry, and that the impacts of climate change might cost more than it would to invest in other forms of energy.

Saving water and having a barrel of fun

By **RAYMOND M. LANE**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—"Well, it starts with rain," says Mara Moran, 12, a Girl Scout with Troop 1706 in Chevy Chase, Md. "My teacher says that the water we drink is the same water the cavemen drank."

"Yeah, people think you can make water, but you can't," says Deirdre Harder, 9, as she helps Mara push a big plastic barrel.

"It doesn't regenerate," adds Emily Castelli, 13, who is tugging at the same barrel. "It's the same water over and over we get from rain filling the rivers and lakes and things."

"We have to learn how to keep that water clean," pipes in Helen Marie Castelli, 11, Emily's cousin.

That's what brought them and four other scouts to Bladensburg Waterfront Park on a recent Saturday: to learn about the environment by learning about rain barrels.

The workshop took place beside the Anacostia River, which flows past the U.S. Capitol and the new Washington

Nationals baseball park, before joining the Potomac River across from Reagan National Airport.

The Anacostia is said to be one of the dirtiest rivers in the country. By learning to make rain barrels, the scouts were working on their water badge and helping the river at the same time.

The Anacostia Watershed Society, which organized the workshop, says the biggest threat to the Potomac and Anacostia rivers is runoff after a big rainstorm. The water surges down sidewalks and across roads and parking lots, taking with it the pollutants from millions of vehicles and the fertilizer from thousands of acres of lawns. It then dumps it all into creeks and streams that feed both rivers.

"Those little raindrops are something," says Jim Connolly, who heads the watershed group and has a rain barrel at home in Arlington, Va. "Just an inch of rain—which is a good-size summer storm—falling on the roof of an average house around here will collect about 1,200 gallons of water. Imagine what a shopping mall parking lot or highway collects!"

"The problem is that it rushes all kinds

A new water cycle

By **RAYMOND M. LANE**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

"I learned to love the water when I was kid in Guam, an island in the Pacific Ocean where my dad served in the Navy," says Barry Chenkin, of Gaithersburg, Md. "I played at the beach all the time, and the water was so dazzling, just clear and clean—kind of how we'd like to clean up our rivers here."

Chenkin now operates a rain-barrel company called Aquabarrel. He became interested in rain barrels after his wife asked if he knew how to build one to collect rainwater for their garden.

of bad stuff—trash and grease and fertilizers and chemicals—into the river quickly, killing the fish and vegetation, and eroding the shorelines. We don't have factories or farms in Washington polluting our rivers. It's this runoff rainwater."

Last year Maryland began requiring that new and renovated buildings have a way to catch rainwater, Connolly says. Someday, Connolly says, "all new homes and commercial buildings ... will have to save rainwater because it's the simplest and cheapest way to protect the rivers. If we capture the storm water—using it to water our gardens or just drain it out a few days after a storm—the rivers know how to clean themselves."

But you don't have to wait to have a rain barrel, says Barry Chenkin, who

"I didn't, so I went to the Internet to learn how," he says. Not liking what he found there, he designed his own.

You can see some of his barrels in the garden shop at Washington National Cathedral.

"I wish I could say there's money to be made in the business," says Chenkin. "There isn't. But I feel good just helping do this one little thing for the environment."

■ ■ ■

Chenkin's next Anacostia Watershed Society workshop is May 17 at the University of Maryland's Center for Educational Partnership in Riverdale. For information: 301-699-6204 or www.anacostiaworks.org.

How a Rain Barrel Works

1. Rain hits a roof and flows down a gutter, which is aimed at the **inlet drain** on top of the barrel. A **grate** filters debris and bugs, including mosquitoes, which thrive in puddles — or barrels — of water.

2. Hundreds of gallons of water can fall during a storm, much more than a barrel can hold. The **overflow hose** keeps water from flooding out of the inlet drain as the barrel fills with rain.

3. The **faucet** releases water when the garden needs a drink.



SOURCES: Potomac Conservancy; Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

BY BILL WORTER — THE WASHINGTON POST

LEARN AND DO

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has a "Build Your Own Rain Barrel" brochure at www.cbf.org (type "rain barrel" in the search box). The four-page brochure has how-to information, photos and drawings, cost considerations and other resources.

State and local governments also are a good resource. Here are some

links. For each, type "rain barrel" in the search box.

- www.virginia.gov
- www.maryland.gov
- www.arlingtonva.us
- www.fairfaxcounty.gov
- www.montgomerycountymd.gov

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For Earth Week, a worldly view

By BRENNA MALONEY
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WASHINGTON—"The Earth needs help," said 10-year-old Jared Rymsza.

While there are differing views on how much trouble the planet is in, supporting a population of more than 6 billion people can't be easy.

After Jared and other students at Flint Hill School in Oakton, Va., sent us their ideas for im-

proving the planet's health, KidsPost's Brenna Maloney and Bill Webster visited the school to hear more.

"A little kid can always make a difference," said Mackie Wheeler, 10.

Kendyll Hicks, 9, agreed: "A kid can reduce, reuse and recycle. Recycling is when you have plastic bottles and aluminum cans and recycle them so you can make more. And reusing, you have a plastic bottle and you use it over and over again. ... Reducing is when you try to

not use as many plastic bottles and aluminum cans."

Sounds simple enough, but not everyone does these things.

"Sometimes they forget (to recycle) or they don't want to," said Ramsey Johnson, 10, "and they throw their trash anywhere."

Celebrating Earth Day is a good reminder, said Michael Soraci, 10. "It's where people start to try to help the Earth because of all the pollution, and

they say thanks, kinda, for what the Earth has been giving us."

Looking for things you can do?

Ramsey has several ideas: "They can turn off all their electrical things, like turn off the lights, don't watch TV, don't play their video games, don't go on their computer, and just try to read. If it's nice, go outside and play. Don't do anything electronic."

The Earth and stars

By JENNIFER FREY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

A group of Disney stars recently got together in Los Angeles with the organization TreePeople to plant trees and talk to kids about how to help the environment. Some of those stars later told KidsPost about their efforts to go green.

JASON DOLLEY

16; plays Newt on "Cory in the House"

"Taking shorter showers. You cut like a minute off your shower and you're saving a lot of water, but that's hard to remember for me. I know that's what I should do, but it's hard to get it started."



ALYSON STONER

14; provides the voice of Isabella on "Phineas and Ferb"

"I've made it a habit to unplug all equipment when I'm not using it. I keep minimal lighting on. We recycle, and when I'm printing a script, I try to use both sides of the paper."



EMILY OSMENT

16; plays Lilly on "Hannah Montana"

"I actually started something in the classroom Mitchel (Musso), Miley (Cyrus) and I use on the show. We use a lot of scratch paper for our math, so I started a basket in the room for recycling papers."



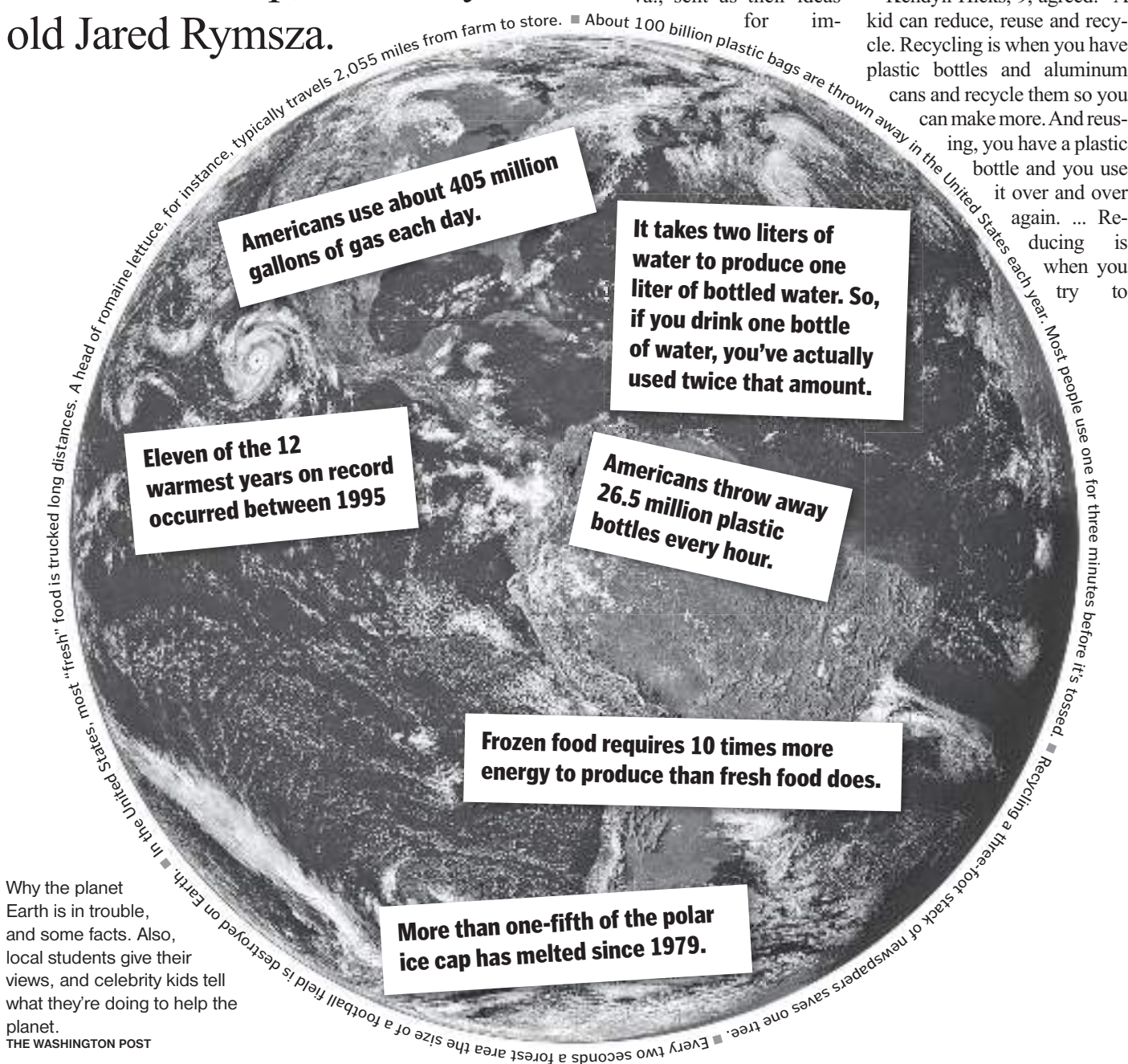
DAVID HENRIE

18; plays Justin on "Wizards of Waverly Place"

"Something easy that everyone can do is get a kill switch for all your electronic devices. You turn those things off, they're not really off, they're in standby mode. They're using energy while you sleep. So I have a power strip for all my appliances."



Why the planet Earth is in trouble, and some facts. Also, local students give their views, and celebrity kids tell what they're doing to help the planet.
THE WASHINGTON POST



ECO-FACTS

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

■ Americans use about 405 million gallons of gas each day.

■ It takes two liters of water to produce one liter

of bottled water. So, if you drink one bottle of water, you've actually used twice that amount.

■ Americans throw away 26.5 million plastic bottles every hour.

■ Frozen food requires 10 times more energy to produce than fresh food does.

■ More than one-fifth of the polar ice cap has melted since 1979.

■ Eleven of the 12 warmest

years on record occurred between 1995 and 2006.

■ About 100 billion plastic bags are thrown away in the United States each year. Most people use one for three minutes before it's tossed.

BOOK REVIEWS

Two titles for Earth Day

By BRENNA MALONEY
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

KidsPost marks Earth Day with a review of two planet-friendly books.

"MySpace/OurPlanet: Change Is Possible,"

By Jeca Taudte
Ages 13 and older

Shorten your shower, ride the bus, watch sporting events in a group.

Here's how those suggestions from the author would improve the health of the planet:

Showering for five minutes or less saves as much as 1,000 gallons of water a month per person. Getting on the bus helps the entire country; the people who currently take public transportation help reduce U.S. gasoline consumption by 1.4 billion gallons a year (enough gas to fill the tanks of 108 million cars). And watching the big game with others cuts down on the energy used to run multiple TVs.

Tom Anderson, co-founder of the social-networking site MySpace, believes that small actions can lead to important change. This book is an extension of the OurPlanet site on MySpace and includes suggestions from online readers.

Anderson writes in the foreword: "You may not realize how many choices you make each day that directly affect the planet." You will after reading this.

"The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming,"

By Laurie David and Cambria Gordon
Ages 9-12

Want to know what a carbon footprint is or what greenhouse gases do?

It doesn't sound like fun reading, but it can be with this well-illustrated guide. The book is divided into four parts: the science of global warming and an explanation of why it's happening; the effect on our weather systems; the impact on plant and animal life; and things that kids can do to help reverse the problem.



THE WASHINGTON POST

KidsPost marks Earth Day with a review of two planet-friendly books, "MySpace/OurPlanet: Change Is Possible" by Jeca Taudte and "The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming" by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon.



CAVER CALVIN has found a new cavern. How many stalagmites and stalactites can you count in the above cave?

Answer: We found 38. Did you find more?

A POETIC PROBLEM!

Apparently Niagara Falls has dried up and this poet is in despair. What's interesting about his lament?

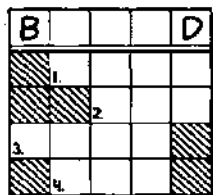
NIAGARA, O ROAR AGAIN!



Answer: It's a palindrome. It reads the same right-to-left as it does left-to-right.

FIND-A-WORD! On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. South African currency.
2. Together with.
3. Dietary fiber.
4. He moved quickly.



Answers: 1. Rand; 2. And; 3. Bran; 4. Ran. Mystery word: Brand.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

Starting with the word EARTH-LING, at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. To make the challenge harder, the following hints are NOT in ascending order. However, we like to be helpful, so we've given you all of the I's.

1. Opposed to, against.
2. To keep in place.
3. Used in drafting.
4. Part of bridal gown.
5. Roman numeral.
6. Not an alien.
7. Not out.
8. Very hard substance.
9. Small insect.

Answers: (from the bottom up): Earthling, tang, a, granite, retain, vain, ant, nil, in, I.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It's not entirely clear why, but those who study such things say that skin cancer is 20 percent more common on the left side of the body.

■ You might be surprised to learn that there is a world record for the most earthworms eaten in 30 seconds—I certainly was. It's held by an Indian man who goes by the name "Snake Manu," who consumed 200 of the little wrigglers in a scant half-minute.

■ Education is a generally considered to be a good thing; knowledge is power, after all. However, sometimes we learn something we really wish we didn't know. For instance, did you know that in studies testing levels of bacteria on common items, toilet seats are consistently found to be much cleaner than fax machines, phone receivers and food cutting boards? I didn't either. And you might not thank me for passing along *that* little tidbit.

■ Are you a lychnobite? Before you answer that, you should keep in mind that a lychnobite is someone who works at night and sleeps during the day.

■ If you've ever been to a formal wedding reception, you probably saw a receiving line, that traditional greeting of each guest by the bride, the groom and their families. Though it's considered to be the proper thing to do, it can sometimes seem to go on and on and on. If you think that's tedious, though, consider the plight of those who get married in Indonesia, where the tradition of the receiving line is firmly entrenched: There, it's not uncommon to have more than 1,000 guests attend, and the bride and groom must greet each one before the festivities can even start.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Like cars in amusement parks, our direction is often determined through collisions." —Yahia Lababidi

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"SESAME STREET" MAGIC MAZE ● CHARACTERS

Z H D A X U Q N K H E B Y V S
P T M J H E B Y V T Q O F D L
I G I D B Y W T R P M K R R R
A I F M D B Y S W U S Q A I E
O T M K R I R F D B Z E Z B T
X W I U Y E L K R A B S Z G S
Q O N S K I K L J Y H F L I N
T D Z N O N U O L Y T T E B O
G R O V E R C R A E B A M A M
A H E Y W E U L B T A F V T I
S Q P B N C L K I H F E C B E

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Barkley	Curly Bear	Frazzle	Mama Bear
Bert	Elmo	Grover	Rosita
Betty Lou	Ernie	Honkers	Zoe
Big Bird	Fat Blue	Kermit	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

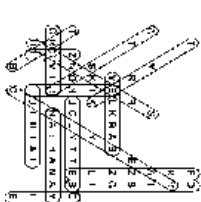
DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		28
x		x		÷	
	+		x		35
+		+		+	
	+		+		15
24		23		2	

1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9
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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

2	28	24
51	-	8
+	+	-
53	x	3
÷	x	x
28	7	x

Toenail clipping takes patience

Q I adopted an Australian shepherd, "Jack," from the local shelter. He's a beautiful dog, but there is one problem. His toenails are pretty long, but he will not let me clip them. Do you have any suggestions? —Philip J., Knoxville, Tenn.



A If a dog had a painful experience with toenail clipping in the past, he likely will resist the procedure again. Sometimes all it takes is one mistaken clip into the quick of the nail—the fleshy area in the center of the nail filled with blood vessels and nerve endings—to convince a dog that nail clipping is not for him.

Many treats, lavish praise and patience with the process—along with good equipment—will help immensely. At the pet store, purchase quality nail clippers made specifically for medium- to large dogs.

Clip Jack's nails by having him either lie on his side or stand on a work table at a comfortable height. Most groomers have dog stands and secure them with a short leash and a non-choking collar. Fill your pockets with treats.

If Jack is on his side, give him a treat for each motion he completes successfully: laying down—a treat. Holding still while you gently hold him in place—a treat. Allowing you to rub his paw—a treat. Allowing you to rub each toenail—a treat.

If Jack is standing, follow a similar procedure. A treat for being secured and standing calmly, a treat when he lets you pick up his paw, and so on. Repeat these steps, or even repeat the session, until he is relaxed.

The next step is clipping. You must be very careful not to cut into the quick, so take only a small amount of the nail (less than 1/8th inch) this time. The quick will retreat from the shortened nail over about three days, and you can trim the nails again then. Give Jack a treat after each snip.

Trimming his nails to a comfortable length while reducing his fear may take several sessions, so take your time.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Pass the popcorn

The smell and taste of freshly popped popcorn makes me think of good times with people I enjoy.

Popcorn is definitely an instant crowd-pleaser, and our longtime family friend Geneva Johnson knew it best. When we arrived at her lake cabin to spend a weekend with other adults and kids, she greeted us at the front door with a giant bowl of popcorn in her outstretched arms. The bigger the bowl, the better, as far as she was concerned.

Here's an easy recipe to spice up basic popcorn when your friends stop by.



SOUTHWEST PARTY POPCORN

- 10 cups popped popcorn
- 1/2 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese and 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 3-2-1 popcorn flavoring to taste (see recipe below), or use taco seasoning mix
- 10-ounce package tortilla chips
- 1 tablespoon chopped scallions
- 1 cup salsa

Let's get started:

1. Spread popcorn into an 11-by-13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle 3-2-1 flavoring and cheese onto the popcorn. Place tortilla chips around the popcorn at edges of baking dish.

2. Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 2 to 3 minutes, until cheese is melted. Remove from oven, garnish with chopped scallions, set a bowl of salsa in center of dish and serve. Dip chips one at a time in the salsa, then scoop up the spicy, cheesy popcorn.

Tip: Make a mold for the salsa bowl by pressing the bowl into the popcorn in the baking dish. Remove

the bowl before placing the baking dish in the oven.

3-2-1 POPCORN FLAVORING

- 3 tablespoons white cheddar cheese powder
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin powder

Combine the ingredients and pour into a clean spice jar. Make your own family label and attach to the jar.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Prince William's helicopter antics hurt his image

LONDON (AP)—Good prince, bad prince. In recent years, the good prince has been William, the responsible, handsome, self-effacing heir to the throne. The bad prince has been carrot-topped, pot-smoking Harry, partying too hard and wearing Nazi gear on a boozy night out.

Then Harry went to war, and William started tooling around England in his Royal Air Force helicopter, bending military rules by dropping in—literally—at his girlfriend's house and buzzing some of his illustrious family's many properties.

Now it's bad prince, good prince—at least for a while.

William, 25, is seen as pampered and overindulged, and Harry, 23, as a gallant soldier who put his life on the line for queen (in this case, grandma) and country. At least that is the prevailing public view as embarrassed military officials admit they goofed by letting William treat his pricey Chinook like a private toy.

"It shows William in a bad light," said public relations guru Max Clifford. "It's the whole spoiled brat syndrome. If any other young officer in the RAF were to do this, they would probably be kicked out of the forces in two minutes. It basically says all the wrong things. It says because of who I am I can do what I want. That's the sort of message that upsets the British public."

He said William, second in line for the British throne, has damaged his credibility at a time when Harry is enjoying the popularity that came from his deployment on the front lines



In this Friday April 11, 2008, file photo, Britain's Prince William and his girlfriend Kate Middleton walk in RAF Cranwell, England after William received his RAF wings from his father the Prince of Wales.

in Afghanistan, which was cut short after word of his presence in the war zone leaked.

Harry's dogged insistence that he be allowed to go into battle with his mates rather than get a comfy post back home has impressed the British public—and the fact that he looked terrific in uniform did not go unnoticed, at least by female readers

of British newspapers, which published hundreds of photos of the soldier-prince.

And William was not helped by the shortage of Chinook helicopters hindering the British war effort in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some acid-tongued commentators pointed out that the Chinooks should be used to support British troops, not to indulge William's

"top gun" fantasies.

The role reversal comes after several years in which Harry has at times received harsh criticism while William had been put on something of a pedestal.

This has even applied to the young women in their lives. The press has given William's paramour, the elegant, dark-haired Kate Middleton, rave reviews as a possible future queen, but has been less kind toward Chelsy Davy, the blonde Zimbabwean who is Harry's frequent companion.

There is a tremendous well-spring of affection for both young princes, who suffered the sudden, traumatic loss of their mother, Princess Diana, when they were just boys. But royal watchers fear William may be squandering some of this goodwill with his flyboy antics.

"I just think in a modern monarchy you cannot do this sort of thing and expect to get away with it," said author Robert Jobson, who has written about the royals.

"You have to be accountable. I think William has made a mistake and he should realize it. Harry had been portrayed as a bad boy, as the playboy prince, until he went to war, but now it's William who needs to sharpen up."

William's questionable sorties took place when he was attached to a Chinook squadron as part of his Royal Air Force training. He completed his basic training several weeks ago and received his wings in a ceremony attended by his father, Prince Charles, and his girlfriend.

In addition to landing on

Middleton's lawn as she and her parents watched, he used the \$20 million helicopter to attend a stag party on the Isle of Wight—picking up Harry on the way—and also flew low over Highgrove, his father's estate, and Sandringham, one of Queen Elizabeth II's country retreats.

The press has been poking fun at William since the flights were revealed, with some columnists quipping that no British girl will be satisfied with a boyfriend who courts her with a bouquet of roses bought at a local gas station when the future king can woo his beloved by landing a Chinook in her garden.

But some military men defended the prince and the instructors who okayed his flight plans.

Charles Heyman, a former officer who edits "The Armed Forces of the United Kingdom," said helicopter pilots have always bent the rules. He said he used to fly with a U.S. airman

who used his military helicopter to scour the countryside for vintage cars he could buy for bargain prices. When he saw something he liked, he would swoop down, land and make an offer.

"It's the sort of things helicopter pilots have done forever," Heyman said. "They've landed in their girlfriends' gardens all over the UK and all over the USA. It is illegal by service standards but they can always get away with it. Some people could say it's part of legitimate flight training, but really it's not. You'd have to really stretch to say that."

Still, he said the fact the both young princes are active in the military is important.

"It raises the status of the military and it shows the top people in society are part of it, and that's good for morale," he said.

Now that he has earned his wings, William is expected to receive Royal Navy training. Bahamas-ahoy.

Jennifer Lopez to star in a TLC reality series

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lopez is no stranger to reality television: She's made cameos on Fox's "American Idol" and MTV's "DanceLife," which she produced, about six aspiring dancers struggling to make it.

But this time, the full attention will be on J.Lo.

Lopez has signed on to star in an unscripted series for TLC following the stylish actress-singer-dancer-businesswoman as she juggles her career with mommy duty.

Lopez, 39, and husband Marc Anthony, 38, welcomed twins Max and Emme in February. Lopez took months to publicly confirm her pregnancy last year, yet waited only weeks after giving birth to publicly display the babies on the cover of People magazine.

Lopez, who has three fashion lines, is also an executive producer on the TLC program, which will show the star launching a new fragrance to add to her collection of namesake perfumes.

"Jennifer is unbelievably passionate about life and will be an incredible role model for our audience," TLC President Angela Shapiro-Mathes said.

Lopez said: "I'm looking forward to sharing this exciting journey together."

The diva is the latest in a long line of celebs venturing into reality TV. Her predecessors include Paris Hilton, Ashlee Simpson, Britney Spears, Ozzy Osbourne and his family, and exes Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown.

TLC said this week it has also made a deal with Kelly Ripa and her husband, actor Mark Consuelos, that gives the network the first dibs on unscripted projects the couple could develop under their production company Milojo Prods.

Ripa, 37, the perky co-host of "Live With Regis and Kelly," will also host an upcoming series for TLC.



In this March 30, 2008 file photo, Jennifer Lopez attends the premiere of "Shine A Light" featuring The Rolling Stones in New York.

Snipes gets 3 years for tax convictions

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—Wesley Snipes was sentenced to three years in prison on tax charges Thursday, a victory for prosecutors who sought to make an example of the action star by aggressively pursuing the maximum penalty.

Snipes' lawyers had spent much of the day in court offering dozens of letters from family members, friends—even fellow actors Woody Harrelson and Denzel Washington—attesting to the good character of the "Blade" star and asking for leniency. They argued he should get only probation because his three convictions were all misdemeanors and the actor had no previous criminal record.

But U.S. District Judge William Terrell Hodges said Snipes exhibited a "history of contempt over a period of time" for U.S. tax laws, and granted prosecutors the three-year sentence they requested—one year for each of Snipes' convictions of willfully failing to file a tax return.

"In my mind these are serious crimes, albeit misdemeanors," Hodges said.

Snipes apologized while reading from a written statement for his "costly mistakes," but never mentioned the word taxes.

"I am an idealistic, naive, passionate, truth-seeking, spiritually motivated artist, unschooled in the science of law and finance," Snipes said.

Snipes said his wealth and celebrity attracted "wolves and jackals like flies are attracted to meat." He called himself "well-intentioned, but miseducated."

Snipes was the highest-profile criminal tax target in years, and prosecutors called for a heavy sentence to deter others from trying to obstruct the IRS. The government alleged Snipes made at least \$13.8 million for the years in question and owed \$2.7 million in back taxes.

Snipes was acquitted in Feb-

ruary of five additional charges, including felony tax fraud and conspiracy. Snipes' co-defendants, Douglas P. Rosile and Eddie Ray Kahn, were convicted on both those counts. Kahn, who refused to defend himself in court, was sentenced to 10

years, while Rosile received 54 months. Both will serve three years of supervised release. Snipes will serve one year of supervised release.

Snipes and Rosile remain free and will be notified when they are to surrender to authorities.

Kahn was the founder of American Rights Litigators, and a successor group, Guiding Light of God Ministries, that purported to help members legally avoid paying taxes. Rosile, a former accountant who lost his licenses in Ohio and Florida, prepared Snipes' paperwork.

Snipes maintained in a years-long battle with the IRS



Snipes

Stuntman hurt on James Bond set

MILAN, Italy (AP)—A stuntman was seriously injured in a car crash while filming an action sequence for the new James Bond movie on a famously winding lakeside road in northern Italy, a local official said Thursday.

The London-based production company for "Quantum of Solace" said that an experienced stunt driver of an Alfa Romeo car remained hospitalized in serious condition following the accident Wednesday. A second stunt driver in the same car also was injured, but less seriously.

"Filming with the second unit on 'Quantum of Solace' will be suspended while the accident is investigated," the statement said. It noted that neither director Marc Forster, Daniel Craig nor any other cast members were at the location when the accident occurred.

The identities of the stunt drivers weren't released.

A spokesman for the town of Limone sul Garda, where crew have been filming for the past two weeks, said the Alfa Romeo crashed into a wall during a chase sequence involving a truck and Bond's Aston Martin along the Gardesana, a curvy, two-lane lakeside road with gorgeous pan-



A general view of the James Bond set in Limone sul Garda, on the Garda Lake, northern Italy, Thursday, April 24, 2008.

oramas and many tunnels.

A helicopter on standby during the filming flew the seriously injured stunt driver to Verona, where he underwent surgery, said town spokesman Marco Girardi, who also was acting as a liaison to the production company.

He said the driver suffered serious head injuries.

"They chose this road be-

cause it is full of curves and tunnels. It will give the film a lot of impact," Girardi said.

He said that the filming was scheduled to wrap up Wednesday, and that they were in the final hours when the accident occurred.

The accident was the second on the Bond set in four days, after an Aston Martin being de-

livered to the set skidded off the road in heavy rain and landed in Lake Garda on Saturday. No one was injured and the car was later fished from the lake.

On Thursday, the production company was packing up equipment, including cars, to close the set. Workers and officials refused any comment to an Associated Press photographer.

Alert parents get the message about teenagers' use of pot

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Our 16-year-old son uses instant messaging, and we often "check in" on what he is saying and who he's speaking with. Although he knows we keep abreast of what he's doing online, he's obviously unaware of how much detail we have access to.

My husband and I know that our son is considering smoking pot and that his other friends do it occasionally. One boy in particular seems to be encouraging him to try it and is offering to provide it. This friend has dealt to others in the past.

We have a firm "parents have to connect" rule when our son wants to go to someone's house, to ensure that the teens are supervised. Our problem is, although the homes have parents "on duty," the friends are allowed to walk to town for a pizza. It's clear from reading the IMs that the boys are taking advantage of this loophole to get high.

How do I tell my son's friend's parents that their child is smoking pot and is the source for several others?

—AWARE IN LAWRENCE, MASS.

DEAR AWARE: Tell them in plain English—and do it quickly. When someone is the source for others, in the eyes of the law it is considered "dealing," the penalty for which can be years in the pokey. And if you haven't already done so, inform your son that the penalty for smoking pot when—not if—you catch him will be severe.

Last February, I printed a letter from Marc Galanter, M.D., the director of alcoholism and drug abuse at New York University Medical Center. In it he said: "(W)e know that illicit drug use changes the developing brain. Many young people smoke pot before their brain development is settled, and their chronic use of the drug can affect certain centers in the brain that control emotion and reason.

"Research shows that regular use ... may also lead to mental health problems. Youth who use marijuana weekly have double the risk of depression later in life, and are three times more likely than non-users to have suicidal thoughts."

In light of Dr. Galanter's warning, it's time the other parents are made aware of what their teens are having with their pizza.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When a friend asks for a ride from work to home, or home to work—or anywhere, for that matter—is it rude for the person to start adjusting the windows, volume on the radio, the thermostat, the sunroof, etc. without asking first?

I realize we are adults, but this is driving me crazy.

—JAY IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

DEAR JAY: Many cars have child safety locks that prevent passenger windows from being operated or doors opened. Utilizing yours could solve part of your problem. However, many people do this when they enter a vehicle, and the driver doesn't mind. Because you do, speak up and say that you find it annoying, and I'm sure it won't happen again.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter-in-law, "Carmella," speaks a foreign language with her parents and children while in our presence. We don't understand a word of these "private" conversations and have let her know that it makes us uncomfortable. We consider her behavior rude. Are we wrong to feel excluded?

—THE IN-LAWS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR IN-LAWS: Your feelings are not wrong. Unless Carmella's parents and children speak no English and she must translate for them, excluding you from the conversation is extremely rude.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Ne-Yo to appear on 'All My Children'



In this image released by ABC, recording artist, Ne-Yo poses on the set with actress Debbi Morgan and Darnell Williams, left, who play Angie and Jesse on ABC Daytime's "All My Children."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ne-Yo is coming closer to Pine Valley.

The singer-songwriter will perform his songs "Closer" and "Stop This World" during an "All My Children" guest stint set to air May 21 and May 22. Ne-Yo will appear on the ABC daytime soap during the long anticipated second wedding of Angie and Jesse Hubbard, the supercouple played by Debbi Morgan and Darnell Williams.

Of course, "All My Children" being "All My Children," the wedding will not go according to plan. Following the Gram-

my winner's performance at the reception, the bride will be kidnapped and taken away on a helicopter. The characters of Angie and Jesse Hubbard recently reunited after a 20-year absence following Jesse's presumed death.

Ne-Yo, whose real name is Shaffer C. Smith, is no stranger to drama. The Grammy winner was arrested in suburban Atlanta for reckless driving earlier this year. Cobb County police spokeswoman Cassie Reece said he was driving at speeds that exceeded 100 mph.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

British court rejects Snoop Dogg visa ban

LONDON (AP)—A British court has overruled the government's decision to deny Snoop Dogg a visa after he was involved in an airport lounge brawl in 2006. The Guardian newspaper says a panel of immigration judges has rejected an attempt by Britain's Home Office to keep the 36-year-old U.S. rapper out of the country. A lower court ruled in January that Snoop hadn't started or been responsible for any public disorder. Police arrested Snoop and five members of his entourage after a brawl at British Airways' VIP lounge at London's Heathrow airport. The rapper, whose real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus, was given a warning. The judges say Snoop cooperated with police and didn't retaliate when pushed. The government has a week to appeal.

Guillermo del Toro to direct 'The Hobbit' and sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Guillermo del Toro is directing "The Hobbit" and its sequel, which will span the 60 years between the first book and the beginning of the "Lord

of the Rings" trilogy. New Line Cinema announced Thursday that the 43-year-old filmmaker, who wrote and directed "Pan's Labyrinth," will move to New Zealand for four years to work with executive producer Peter Jackson and his production teams. Del Toro will direct the two films back-to-back. The first tells the story of how Bilbo Baggins came to possess the Ring of Doom, while the second will center on the time between it and "The Fellowship of the Ring." "Pan's Labyrinth" earned six Oscar nominations in 2006 and won three awards.

Keys cancels Cleveland concert with swollen vocal chords

CLEVELAND (AP)—Alicia Keys has scrapped a concert in Cleveland after canceling her show in Pittsburgh earlier this week. A message posted on her Web site says the 27-year-old R&B singer has swollen vocal cords. She was scheduled to perform Thursday night at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center. Keys plans to perform in Columbus on Saturday night. Fans with tickets to the Cleveland show will

have their tickets honored at Value City Arena in Columbus. They can also get a refund. Keys isn't the only one on her tour with vocal problems. "American Idol" winner Jordin Sparks was one of the opening acts, but she's now under a doctor's care and resting her voice, probably until next month.

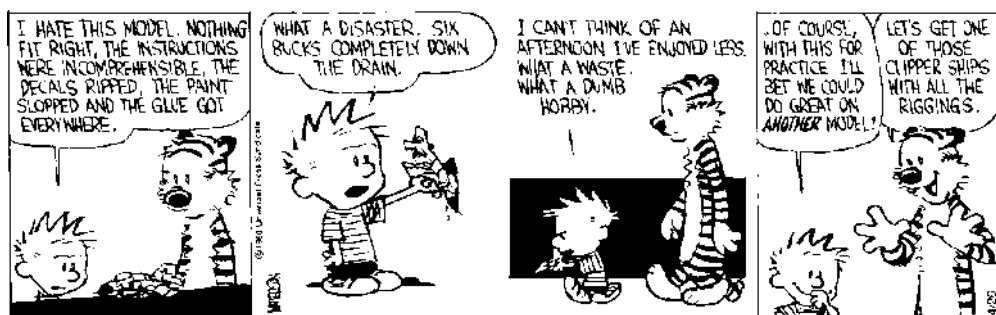
News media ask for access to R. Kelly's pretrial hearings

CHICAGO (AP)—An attorney for two newspapers and The Associated Press says singer R. Kelly's celebrity status doesn't justify news media being barred from pretrial hearings in his pornography trial in Chicago. The Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times and the AP are seeking transcripts of closed pretrial hearings and asking that a gag order on attorneys be lifted. Kelly's attorneys want more time to respond. Cook County Circuit Judge Vincent Gaughan (GAWN) set another hearing on the motion for May 8, a day before jury selection begins and after any pretrial hearings would be held. The 41-year-old singer faces charges he videotaped himself having sex with an underage girl. He's denied the allegations.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



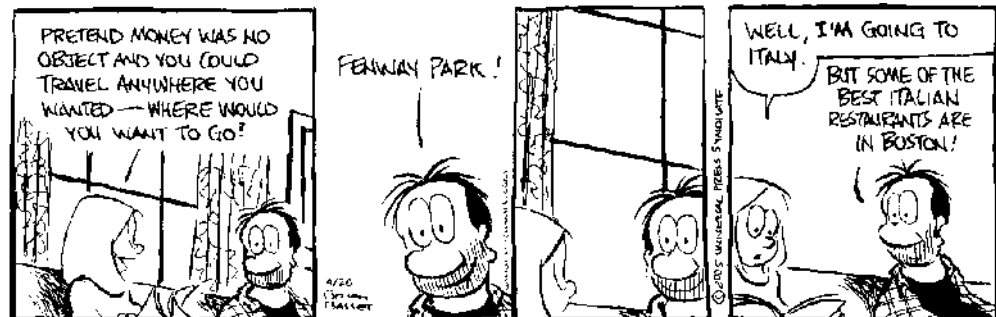
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Arrived	DOWN	18 Wrong
1 Tammany	40 Energy	1 Acting	(Pref.)
6 Phobias	42 Sailor's	2 Cau-	21 Russian
11 By word	43 Pub	tioned	money
of mouth	order	3 Shade	23 — Hold
12 Large	44 Summary	provider	'Em
bay	46 D.C.	4 Verve	25 Crony
windows	record-	5 "I'm	27 Gun the
14 Requiring	keeping	Not	motor
a lux	org.	There"	29 Unusual-
15 Brigham	47 Standard	subject	ness
Young	49 Wirrow	6 Incites	31 Checks
follower?	in a	7 Cupid's	bar codes
16 Enjoy-	roof	alias	32 Head
ment	51 Trig ratio	8 Melody	lights?
17 Phone	52 Chroni-	9 Sucker-	33 Punish by
book	cles	headed	finc
listings	53 Rife	fish	34 First "O"?
19 Eggs	with	10 Bratislava	36 Assistant
20 Unorigi-	marsh	dweller	who
nal one	plants	11 Rubbish	runs
22 Diarist	54 Where-	13 Breaks	errands
Anais	withal	suddenly	37 Museum's
23 Snare			support-
24 Prepared			ers?
the way			38 Autocrats
(to)			41 Start of a
26 Jogs			palin-
sans togs			drome
28 Proscribe			from
30 Gender			Eden?
31 Green			44 Pealed
onion			45 Corn
35 Parking			recipe
lot			48 Frenzied
attendant			50 Genetics

Yesterday's answer 4-26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									13
14									
16			17		18				19
20		21		22			23		
24			25		26		27		
		28		29		30			
31	32	33			34		35	36	37
39				40		41		42	
43			44			45		46	
47			48			49		50	
51						52			
	53					54			

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Welling, 31; Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins, 38; Kevin James, 43; Carol Burnett, 75

Happy Birthday: Prepare to give yourself a pat on the back for reaching your goals. This is a great year for you to pull things together, sort through what can be eliminated and to clear the way for what's really important to you. A wise person who has been there for you in the past will give you the heads-up. Your numbers are 12, 17, 24, 34, 43, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't trust your heart to lead you in the right direction. Be clever and honest with your assessments of who you are, as well as, what the people around you want from you. Be careful not to give love for nothing or ideas and hard work for free. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will come up with a solution that works for everyone. Someone asking for your help may not be in as much need as he or she claims. Be careful not to waste your time. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There won't be too much you can do without being criticized. Keep your ideas under lock and key until you have a finished product. Not many will have your vision. Strive for perfection and originality. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't shy away from change or make a fuss. Tempers will surface if you don't make an effort to get along. An opportunity to partner with someone financially, personally or professionally will be to your advantage. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone may try to talk you out of doing something you feel strongly about. A new job offer, sending out your resume, searching the job ads or seriously considering making a vocational change will all help you get started in a better direction. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will come across as being so cool, informative and socially fun that it won't be difficult to get others to take note of you. A great friendship can begin through talks about future intentions and lucrative goals. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll find it difficult to please anyone today, so back off and stop trying so hard. Instead, work on something you enjoy or get out with a friend who understands you. Love issues will arise—don't argue a moot point with someone who isn't going to budge. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't neglect the one who loves you most. He or she has probably been waiting on the sidelines for a moment of your time. Plan an interesting little adventure for two. A little will go a long way. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Challenges, competitive games and love should all be high on your list. Traveling will bring you interesting insight. Be honest, however, about how feasible it is to proceed in a direction that appears to be changing so rapidly. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Work at home. It's the changes you make within your personal

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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environment that will make a difference to your current relationships. Ask what others are doing and show your concern, not your anger, if you don't agree. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may feel trapped by the people you are with. Listen to the advice of others but don't become so defensive or stubborn that it doesn't help. Everyone who speaks up today is doing so out of concern for you and your future. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your energetic approach to life, love and any challenge will be impressive. Do your best to put in the hours required to get ahead professionally and financially. It's your turn to advance. ****

Birthday Baby: You are a thinker who is always prepared. You have a purpose, strong beliefs and commitments that you always uphold. You have a great memory and a studious mind.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7						9	
2								5
			8	3	6			
		4		5		1		
		7	1		8	9		
		6		2		8		
			2	1	9			
5								9
	1						8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	2	5	9	7	1	8	4
1	5	8	4	6	3	7	9	2
4	9	7	2	1	8	5	6	3
8	2	1	6	5	9	3	4	7
5	6	4	7	3	1	9	2	8
9	7	3	8	4	2	6	1	5
7	1	6	3	8	4	2	5	9
3	8	5	9	2	6	4	7	1
2	4	9	1	7	5	8	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. (The 5-letter letters spell the Wonderword.)

DOWN THE WELL

Solution: 5 letters

S	E	T	N	I	A	R	D	R	A	C	S	I	D	S
I	U	I	C	A	I	P	Y	H	S	I	U	Q		
O	C	B	E	R	S	C	Y	C	T	E	P	O	M	U
C	S	E	T	C	C	E	A	S	E	P	N	T	P	I
A	E	G	E	E	N	E	C	K	A	R	M	N	I	E
T	R	N	D	O	R	A	S	R	E	R	E	E	N	T
E	T	U	M	I	R	R	T	V	O	O	A	L	G	E
E	U	L	D	Y	S	E	A	S	S	P	R	I	N	G
R	M	P	L	E	L	C	C	N	I	E	T	S	W	A
U	B	E	S	I	H	O	O	O	E	D	H	A	I	V
S	L	N	V	E	T	S	S	V	V	A	T	E	S	L
A	E	O	I	A	S	I	Ⓢ							
E	S	G	I	D	D	R	Ⓢ	N	R	R	H	E	S	A
R	H	I	D	F	I	Ⓢ	C	N	D	I	S	P	O	S
T	N	S	W	O	L	A	H	S	E	A	L	L	S	F

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4/26

Cavernous, Descend, Digs, Discard, Discover, Dispose, Distance, Dive, Drain, Dumping, Earth, Echo, Empty, Falls, Fir shed, Gone, Haught, Hicc, L's, Locate, Lost, Money, Peaceful, Plunge, Quest, Quiet, Reach, Recover, Rescue, Rope, Salvage, Scary, Search, Secret, Seek, Show, Silent, Spring, Rope, Salvage, Scary, Search, Treasure, Turnle, Water, Wishes

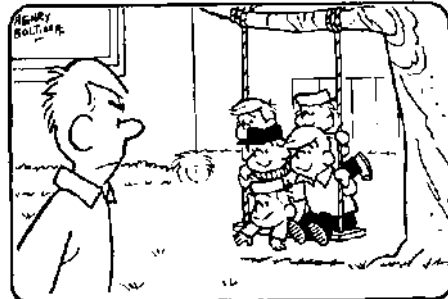
Yesterday's Answer: Dandruff

The Wonderword is WONDERWORD. The letters are: W, O, N, D, E, R, W, O, R, D. The letters are: W, O, N, D, E, R, W, O, R, D. The letters are: W, O, N, D, E, R, W, O, R, D.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man's collar is different. 2. Window is larger. 3. One boy is missing. 4. Part of fence is missing. 5. Boy on the bottom has a hat. 6. Part of fence is missing.

Wishing Well®

3	8	3	5	8	5	8	6	3	5	2	5	2
Y	A	O	L	B	O	E	N	U	V	A	E	S
3	5	4	8	5	2	3	5	4	3	7	3	2
S	O	F	A	F	S	P	L	I	A	E	N	I
8	3	5	3	4	7	5	8	6	7	3	8	6
M	B	U	A	D	N	X	I	O	J	R	N	M
2	7	6	2	6	7	4	2	4	2	5	8	4
S	O	O	T	R	Y	E	O	L	T	U	G	I
5	7	5	7	4	7	2	3	8	7	3	2	7
R	P	Y	L	T	E	H	R	S	A	I	E	S
8	7	6	8	2	4	3	7	8	3	2	7	3
M	U	E	I	R	Y	E	R	L	R	S	E	S
6	7	8	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	4
T	S	E	I	E	N	A	L	R	O	S	V	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 8 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

LOTS OF LIBRAS

ACROSS	1 Engage, as gears	5 Spanish city	10 Writer Silverstein	14 Corredora via	20 Church law	21 Hawaiian harbor	22 Isolated	23 Singer born 10/9/1940	25 Writer born 10/16/1856	27 Win by —	28 Cathy remark?	30 Wells or farbell	31 — the season —	32 Hall's partner	36 Spring mo.	37 Fan	40 "Time to grow"	43 Cunniff	44 Sayer and Dabbs	46 Ballplayer W. field	47 Significant years	48 Racer	49 Compose: Nino	51 Bacteria	54 Comic born 10/5/1924	56 Veterinarian born 10/3/1916	59 Rabbit food	62 Actress Zadora	63 Take inventory	64 Clay dump	67 Leading lady?	68 London or Kyellin	70 Figs	71 Coach born 10/18/1939	74 Errand runner born 10/10/1846	78 Fire product	79 Patriotic org.	80 Merry month	81 Leading mar?	82 College exams	85 Hurried	87 On the bingy	89 Stringed instrument	93 Actress born 10/17/1918	96 Artist born 10/19/1937	99 Gondors	100 Stead	101 Bar's river	102 Maughan's "Cakes and —"	103 Kind of oven	105 Valuable	107 Part	108 Walked pugilist	109 Venus —	112 Showed the way	113 Consequences alternative	115 Paid player	116 Dr. le's org.	117 Horus' mom	119 Intended	123 Poet born 10/14/1894	127 Actor born 10/20/1882	131 Saw	132 Mine feature	133 Permission	134 Abhor	135 Crow toe	136 Glasgow girl	137 Adds lace	138 Manuscript impertinent	DOWN	1 Goya's "The Naked —"	2 North Carolina campus	3 London area	4 Kermit's creator	5 Master	6 Delivery truck	7 Lodging	8 Hang over	9 Use a	102 Across	10 Where to see mode s	11 Terry-clot nscript on	12 Spanish hero	13 Rich	14 Dachs-hund's dog	15 Yalie	16 Nick of "Cape Fear"	17 Actress MacDow	18 Dregs	24 Where flocks frolic	26 Act like Attila	29 Function	33 Skater Lipinski	34 "— go blarney"	35 Cook clam	38 Manifest	39 Incognito	40 Labor leader Eugene	41 Notes from Verdi?	42 Room divider	45 Footfall	48 Confuse	50 Laotian native	52 "Now We Are Six" author	53 Greek lawmaker	55 Delicacy	56 Hirt hit	57 Turkish treat	58 Cobb and Hardin	61 "A mouse!"	65 Eccentric	66 Frank book	69 Nourished	71 Roger of baseball	72 Boiling	73 Go fishing	74 Big party	75 Check out	76 Poe crow	77 Kuwait ruler	78 Rocky hill	80 Grows up	83 Without care	84 Word with metal or music	86 Film —	88 In pieces	90 Julie's "Doctor Zhivago" co-star	91 Composer Schiffrin	92 Out the payroll	94 Guru's grounds	95 Practical people	97 At any time	98 Soybean product	104 Tire type	106 "It to least on	108 Chicken servings	109 Singer Payne	110 Regiona	111 Bamboo muncher	114 Kind of cross	115 Swamp stuff	118 Bird food	120 Castle ditch	121 Ivo's Villa if	122 Spare fare	124 Actor Tognazzi	125 Half of us	126 "M*A*S*H" extras	128 Trail	129 "Hic" "Istace"	130 Borke's "— Troys"
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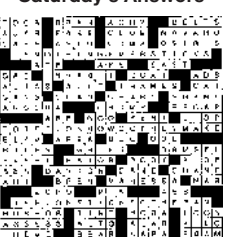


1. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Kentucky?
2. OLYMPIC GAMES: What is a luge?
3. BIBLE: What biblical character was swallowed by a whale?
4. TELEVISION: What was the professor's name on "Gilligan's Island"?
5. LITERATURE: What Shakespearean character speaks the line, "Thus with a kiss I die"?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who wrote the long-running newspaper column called "At Wit's End"?
7. MUSIC: What does the musical term "lento" mean?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What color is a robin's egg?
9. LANGUAGE: What is the French name for the English Channel?
10. GEOGRAPHY: In what country can the ancient site of Machu Picchu be found?

- Answers
1. Frankfort
 2. Racing sled
 3. Jonah
 4. Roy Hinkley
 5. Romeo, "Romeo and Juliet"
 6. Emma Bonbeck
 7. Slow
 8. Blue
 9. La Manche
 10. Peru

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Saturday's Answers



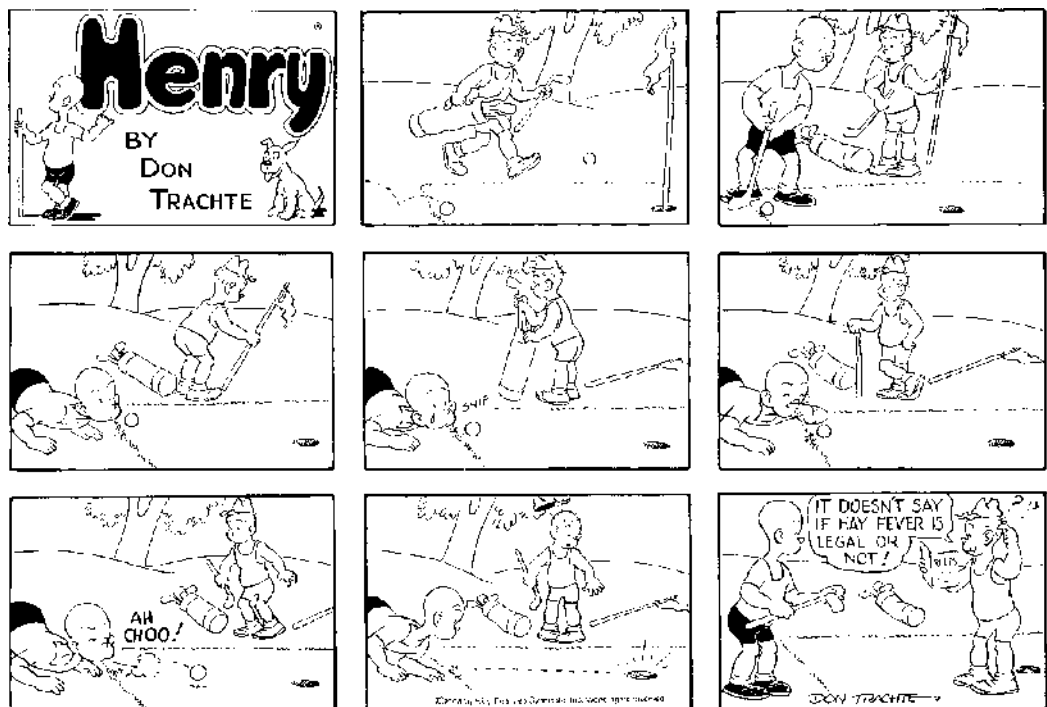
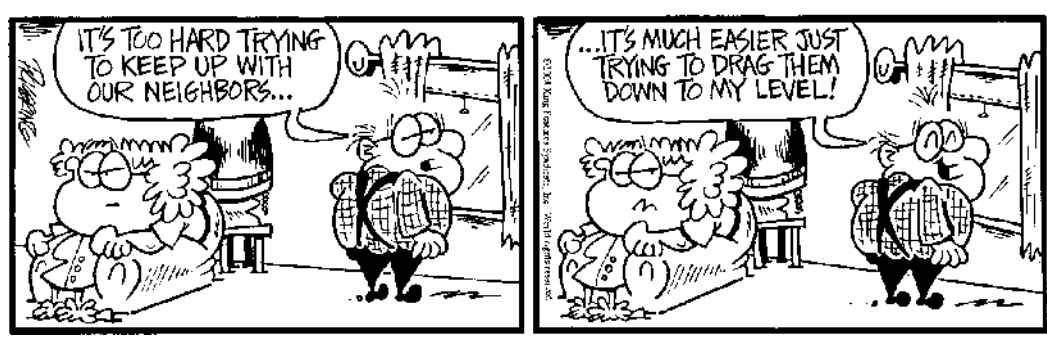
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

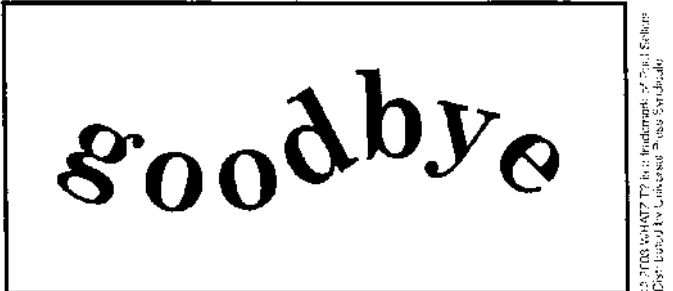
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Apartment Room for Rent 2 bed room \$230.00, Koblerville. Contact: 288-0728.

2 Bedroom Duplex House for Rent. As Lito / \$200.00/month Call @ 233-0327

NEW Rattan Furniture
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 789-1625

FOR SALE

1-bedroom/build-in 20ft container wall to wall carpet w/ 12BTU split-type aircon. \$3,500 or best offer/call Rose-233-1984, 8am-6pm

Retail store equipments & inventories. More than enough to open new business. All for \$5,500/or best offer-233-1984

WHATZIT Solution:
Wave goodbye

Subscribe to
CNMI's First Daily
Newspaper
235-NEWS

The Saipan Tribune now offers Classified Ads Super Saver Package for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD
\$25

3-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO
\$45

5-LINER AD
\$35

5-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO
\$55

Get results. Advertise now!
Call now at 235-2769
for more details.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



McGrady, Rockets rally past Jazz in Game 3



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Tracy McGrady snapped out of his fourth-quarter slump and scored seven of his 27 points in the final period, leading Houston to a 94-92 victory over Utah on Thursday night that gave the Rockets life in a series that could have been headed for a sweep.

Rafer Alston added 20 points and five assists in his first game in nearly two weeks as Houston avoided falling behind 3-0 in the series by beating the team that had the best home record in the NBA during the regular season. Game 4 is Saturday back in Utah, where the Jazz were 37-4 this season.

Carl Landry had 11 rebounds and blocked Deron Williams' shot that could have won it for the Jazz just before the buzzer.

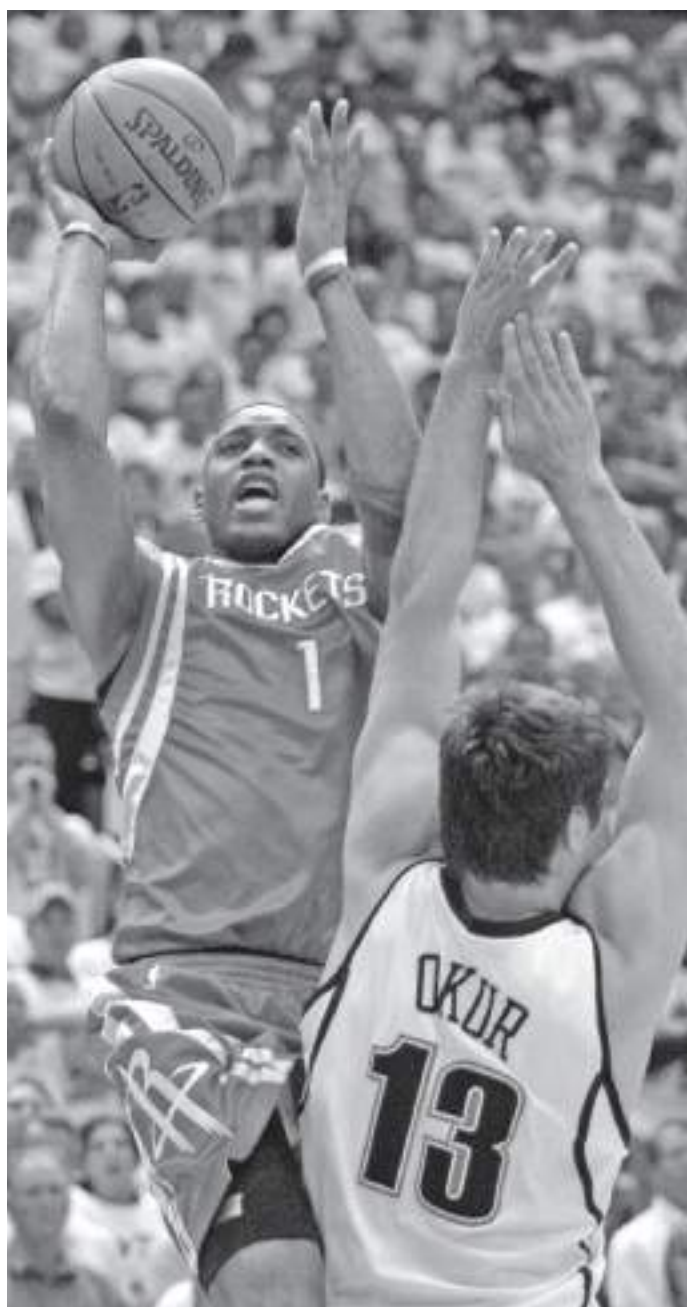
Williams had 28 points and 12 assists.

Carlos Boozer had 15 points and 13 rebounds, and Mehmet Okur scored 12 and pulled down 11 boards for the Jazz, whose poor free throw shooting caught up with them in the fourth quarter when McGrady started scoring.

The Jazz went 20-for-33 from the foul line, getting 11 more chances than Houston (16-for-22).

McGrady, who has never been past the first round of the playoffs, had scored just one point total in the fourth quarter of the first two games, which Utah won in Houston to take a commanding 2-0 lead back home. But on Thursday, he found his touch from both the floor and the foul line to lead the Rockets from a seven-point deficit.

McGrady tied the game at 86 on a foul shot with 3:29 left, then gave the Rockets the lead with two more from the line with 2:50 remaining. He added a 19-foot jumper with 2:16 to



Houston Rockets center Tracy McGrady (1) shoots against Utah Jazz forward Mehmet Okur (13), of Turkey, during the fourth quarter of Game 3 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Thursday, April 24, 2008, in Salt Lake City.

go—his first fourth-quarter field goal of the series—then followed with a 20-footer to give the Rockets a 92-86 lead.

As he was shooting, Landry was drawing a foul on Andrei Kirilenko away from the ball. The basket counted and Landry made the free throw to convert

the unusual three-point play and give Houston a 93-86 lead.

But the Jazz weren't done. Kyle Korver hit a 3-pointer, McGrady was called for an offensive foul and Okur hit another 3 to draw the Jazz within 93-92 with 37 seconds left. McGrady missed at the other

end and the Jazz had a chance to win, but Landry blocked Williams' shot from the lane and the rebound went to Luis Scola, who was fouled and went 1-for-2 from the line with 0.2 seconds left.

After a timeout, the Jazz threw away the inbounds pass.

Scola had 16 points and 10 rebounds. Shane Battier scored 12 points for the Rockets.

Ronnie Brewer scored 12 and Matt Harpring added 10 points for the Jazz.

Wizards 108, Cavaliers 72

At Washington, DeShawn Stevenson scored 19 points, Caron Butler added 17, and the Washington Wizards took themselves off the ropes by beating Cleveland 108-72, cutting the Cavaliers' lead to 2-1 in the NBA playoffs on Thursday.

Three days after setting a franchise playoff record with a 30-point win in Game 2, the Cavaliers set another team postseason mark by losing by 36. The margin of victory also set a Wizards franchise playoff record.

Washington will also host Game 4 on Sunday.

LeBron James finished with 22 points on 10-for-19 shooting from the field and 2-for-4 from the line. He also had seven rebounds, three assists and four turnovers.

Raptors 108, Magic 94

At Toronto, T.J. Ford scored 21 points, Jose Calderon had 18 points and 13 assists, and Toronto beat Orlando in Game 3 of their first-round series.

Dwight Howard had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Magic, who lead the best-of-seven series 2-1. Hedo Turkoglu added 24 points and Rashard Lewis 19.

Jamario Moon had 11 points and 10 rebounds in his return to

Wizards' Arenas injures knee again after returning

WASHINGTON (AP)—Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas, starting for the first time since November, left the game after injuring his surgically repaired knee in the first half Thursday night against the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Arenas walked off the court late in the first half with an obvious limp. The team said he had a bone bruise in his left knee and would not return. He was listed as day-to-day.

The three-time All-Star had not started since Nov. 16, his last game before having a second surgery on the knee. He missed 66 straight games and had been used as a reserve since returning late in the regular season.

Arenas was on the starting lineup sheet made available about 30 minutes before tip-off. A few minutes earlier, coach Eddie Jordan said Antonio Daniels would be starting at point guard but left open the possibility of a last-minute switch, possibly to spark a team that was down 0-2 in the first-round playoff series.

"It has to be the right time and at the right place, so is this the right time and right place?" Jordan said. "It still could be an 11th hour adjustment, but right now Antonio's starting."

Arenas scored 24 points on 8-for-16 shooting in Game 1, but he labored in Game 2, scoring seven points on 2-for-10 shooting in the Wizards' 30-point loss.

the starting lineup for Toronto, while Chris Bosh and Jason Kapono each scored 15 points and Anthony Parker 10.

The Raptors finished 12-for-

In 10 minutes in Game 3, Arenas scored two points and had three assists. He rode an exercise bike in one of the tunnels in between his two stints in the game.

Arenas wasn't the only change for Game 3. Several Wizards had spent some time with the barber.

Caron Butler had his nickname—"Tough Juice"—etched into the back of his hair. DeShawn Stevenson and Andray Blatche sported mohawks, and Nick Young showed off a modified high-top fade.

"It's a little something I pulled out of the archives right there," said Butler, who, like most of his teammates, has been struggling with his shot. "I want to go with the '80s theme, so I put 'Tough Juice' on the back. It'll help my rhythm out. It ain't been there, so I'm trying to get it lined back up."

Even Jordan had a colorful comment when asked about his message over the last couple of days. He said the theme was "trust and discipline" and called himself the "enforcer" of the discipline.

The mild-mannered Jordan? An enforcer?

"In a general, passive sense, yes," said.

But "passive" and "enforcer" don't seem to go together.

"Well, it can. It's sort of a Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King sort of thing," Jordan said with a chuckle. "Nonviolent protest."

34 from 3-point range and set playoff highs for points in a game and a half (61).

Game 4 is on Saturday in Toronto.

Parnevik's opens with 68, stroke behind at Nelson



IRVING, Texas (AP)—

Jesper Parnevik has been so inconsistent that he's willing to take advice from a golfing buddy he refers to as a "complete hack monster."

Something worked Thursday, with Parnevik overcoming gusty wind and a redesigned course to shoot a 2-under 68 in the first round of the EDS Byron Nelson Championship.

That left him only one shot behind Ryan Moore, Mathew Goggin and Eric Axley, whose 67s made them the highest-scoring first-round leaders at the Nelson since 1984.

So what was that tip Parnevik received during a phone call Wednesday night from his friend in Colorado?

"It was really a stupid thing,"

Parnevik said. "It was the way he had his left big toe at impact. ... It should be kind of pointed a little bit upwards."

Parnevik was in a group of eight players at 68 that included 10th-ranked Adam Scott, the only player from the top 10 in the world ranking in the field. Kevin Sutherland, Briny Baird, Shaun Micheel, Ian Poulter and Dustin Johnson and Parker McLachlin also shot 68s.

Only 24 of the 156 players in the field broke par. Masters champion Trevor Immelman, playing for the first time since winning the green jacket, finished with a 78, better than only three other players.

Axley, who overcame an early bogey with four consecutive birdies from Nos. 4-7, was in the lead alone until he bogeyed the 429-yard 18th hole.

He missed the final fairway and hit his approach into a green-side bunker—the only bunker he found all day.

Goggin, in the same group with Parnevik, got to 3 under with three consecutive birdies on their back nine. He sank putts of 15-20 feet on Nos. 5 and 6 before hitting his second shot at the 542-yard seventh hole to the fringe and chipping to 2 feet.

Moore had seven birdies and four bogeys in only his third tournament in 10 weeks. That included a six-hole stretch on the back nine when he had either a birdie or bogey on each.

"It was just one of those days that you knew it was going to be a battle the whole time you were out there," said Moore, who has taken extra time off the last 2 1/2 months to cure a sore shoulder. "I'll take a 67 on any course any

day. This is definitely one of my better rounds of the year, for sure, in these conditions."

The unusual high opening scores at the Nelson had more to do with the weather—windy conditions with gusts of more than 30 mph and wet fairways after about an inch of rain overnight—than the redesign of the TPC Four Seasons course since last year.

"It's hard to make a real fair comparison right now, with the soft fairways and the wind blowing 20 mph," said Harrison Frazar, a player from Dallas who was a consultant during the \$10 million renovation. "I don't think we need to jump to any conclusions too early."

Frazar shot 73, a shot better than J.J. Henry, the Fort Worth resident who was the other player consultant on the project.

Soon after last year's tournament, when deteriorating greens were bumpy and sometimes brown, work began to make changes on every hole, with new tee boxes and more undulating greens, and to relocate 165 trees.

With the redone TPC, this is the first time since 1993 that the Nelson has been played on only one course. Cottonwood Valley across the street also was used during first- and second-round play from 1994 until last year.

Parnevik last won on the PGA Tour in 2001 and hasn't finished better than 24th this season, missing four of 10 cuts. The Swede matched his best score in 25 rounds even after giving up a couple of strokes late, missing a 5-foot birdie putt at No. 7 before hitting into fairway and greenside bunkers on the following 461-yard hole.

Even though Parnevik won the Nelson in 2000, and has

played there 10 other times, he was uncertain at times on the greens.

"It gives me an advantage of coming here for 10, 12 years, that you know every putt, you know every break," Parnevik said. "And today, I didn't have a clue. I actually missed a lot of putts out there."

Immelman, the Nelson runner-up two years ago, was already 6 over through eight holes. He needed 34 putts and finished with a bogey at the 427-yard ninth, soon after his only birdies at Nos. 6 and 7. The South African admitted this week that the victory at Augusta "still hasn't quite sunk in yet" after more than a week to celebrate and reflect.

"I just think I've just run out of gas," Immelman said. "I'm obviously real tired. I'm been trying to get as much sleep as I can, as well as obviously running around."

Angels rally with 4 runs in 7th to beat Red Sox



BOSTON
(AP)—Joe

Saunders pitched six solid innings and Gary Matthews Jr. singled in the go-ahead runs in a four-run seventh inning as the Los Angeles Angels came back to beat the Boston Red Sox 7-5 in the American League on Thursday.

Saunders (4-0) left trailing 3-1. The Angels rallied in the seventh, when three Red Sox relievers allowed four singles and three walks to give Los Angeles a 5-3 lead.

A day after hitting two solo homers in a win over the Red Sox, Matthews had three hits and three RBIs. He drove in a pair with a bases-loaded single in the seventh.

White Sox 7, Yankees 6

At Chicago, Joe Crede hit a run-scoring single in the ninth inning to hand Joba Chamberlain his first major league loss and help Chicago avoid a three-game sweep to New York.

Carlos Quentin doubled with one out off Chamberlain (1-1) and Crede lined a single to left-center to score him.

Bobby Jenks (1-0) got pinch-hitter Jorge Posada to ground into an inning-ending double play with two runners on in the top of the ninth to get the win in a game twice delayed by rain.

Tigers 8, Rangers 2

At Detroit, Magglio Ordonez hit two of Detroit's five homers to lead the Tigers to their season-best fourth straight win. Detroit outscored Texas 37-10 in the three-game series, while the Rangers have lost seven straight.

Zach Miner (1-1) followed with 3 1-3 hitless innings as the Tigers pulled away.

Jason Jennings (0-4) allowed five runs on five hits and five walks in five innings, raising his ERA to 7.46 in five starts.

Michael Young homered for Texas in the first, as did Curtis Granderson for the Tigers.

Athletics 11, Twins 2

At Oakland, California, Don-

nie Murphy hit solo homers in the fifth and sixth innings, but they both came after Oakland jumped on Francisco Liriano for six runs in the first.

Emil Brown hit a two-run single as the A's batted around in the first and chased Liriano (0-3) after only two-thirds of an inning. It was the shortest outing by a Minnesota starter since May 2002.

Oakland's Greg Smith (2-0) allowed two runs on seven hits in seven innings, struck out three and walked one in his first career appearance.

Indians 9, Royals 6, 1st game Indians 2, Royals 0, 2nd game

At Kansas City, Missouri, Cliff Lee faced only two batters over the minimum while pitching a three-hit shutout that Cleveland a doubleheader sweep over Kansas City.

In the opener, Grady Sizemore, Casey Blake and Jason Michaels each had two RBIs in the Indians' first series-clinching win since they opened the season by taking two of three from the Chicago White Sox.

Lee (4-0) struck out nine and did not issue a walk while shrinking his major league-best ERA to 0.28 as the Royals lost their seventh straight game.

In the opener, Fausto Carmona (3-1) survived five shaky innings and benefited from an early 7-1 lead in the third against Brett Tomko (1-3).

Rays 5, Blue Jays 3

At Kissimmee, Florida, Evan Longoria tripled and had a sacrifice fly, and Eric Hinske drove in two runs for Tampa, which completed a three-game sweep of Toronto at Disney World.

The Rays improved to 6-0 in regular-season games they've played here in an ongoing effort to bolster fan support in the Orlando area, which is about 90 miles (145 kilometers) from St. Petersburg.

Andy Sonnanstine (3-1) allowed three runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Dustin McGowan (1-2) al-



Los Angeles Angels catcher Mike Napoli, left, and relief pitcher Francisco Rodriguez congratulate one another after the Angels beat the Boston Red Sox 7-5 in a baseball game at Boston's Fenway Park, Thursday, April 24, 2008.

lowed five runs on four hits and a career-high seven walks in four-plus innings.

Orioles 8, Mariners 7

At Seattle, Brian Roberts homered off Sean Green (1-1) to open the eighth inning, capping Baltimore's rally from a five-run deficit, and the Orioles beat the Mariners for the sixth time in seven games this season.

Chad Bradford (2-1) got the final out of the seventh and worked the eighth to get the win. Former Seattle reliever George Sherrill pitched the ninth for his eighth save, five against Seattle.

Astros 5, Reds 3

At Cincinnati, Lance Berkman hit his 18th homer at Great American Ball Park—the most by any visiting player—and

drove in three runs to lead the Houston Astros over the Cincinnati Reds and to their fifth straight win.

Berkman had a two-run homer and a run-scoring double off rookie Johnny Cueto (1-2), whose 96 mph (155 kph) fastball wasn't enough to slow the Astros' surging offense in the National League. Even pitcher Jack Cassel (1-0) got involved, adding a run-scoring single for his first career RBI.

Houston's last five-game winning streak was April 16-20 last season.

Cueto gave up eight hits and five runs in seven innings.

Phillies 3, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Pat Burrell's two-out, two-run double broke a tie in the eighth, and Phila-

delphia held on to beat Milwaukee.

Burrell's deep drive to the left field corner capped the Phillies' two-out rally off Brewers reliever David Riske (0-1), who got the first two outs of the inning before walking Greg Dobbs and giving up a single to Chase Utley.

Rockies 4, Cubs 2

At Denver, Aaron Cook won his third straight start with eight strong innings, and Brian Fuentes earned his first save in 10 months for Colorado.

Jason Marquis gave up eight hits and struck out four in seven innings, Kevin Hart (2-1) took the loss in relief to snap Chicago's six-game win streak.

Cook (3-1) retired 16 straight batters, including a five-pitch fourth inning.

Braves 7, Marlins 4

At Atlanta, Chipper Jones celebrated his 36th birthday by going 3-for-3, including a homer, to lead Atlanta past NL East-leading Florida.

Jones also singled in the fifth, and was walked intentionally in his final at-bat while the crowd booed loudly. He's on one of the hottest tears of his career, raising the best average in the majors to .442, and has seven homers and 20 RBIs.

Chuck James (2-1) allowed four runs in five innings.

Atlanta jumped on rookie Burke Badenhop (0-2), who was born in Atlanta. He lasted five innings, giving up eight hits. He didn't strike out anyone.

Nationals 10, Mets 5

At Washington, Felipe Lopez's grand slam and two-run single gave him a career-high-tying six RBIs and led Washington to just its fourth victory in the past 20 games.

The Nationals fell behind 3-0 while being held in check through four innings by New York starter Oliver Perez. But Washington's weak offense broke out for three runs in the fifth, four in the sixth and three in the seventh.

Washington finished with 13

hits and made a winner of Mike O'Connor (1-0), who made his first appearance in the majors since 2006.

Cardinals 6, Pirates 2

At Pittsburgh, Brian Barton had a two-run single in the fifth inning—the first hit off erratic Pittsburgh starter Tom Gorzelanny—and St. Louis avoided its first three-game skid of the season.

Joel Pineiro (1-2) pitched seven effective innings and Albert Pujols went 2-for-2 and reached base in all five plate appearances, walking twice and getting hit with a pitch.

Gorzelanny (1-3) took a no-hitter and a 1-0 lead in the fifth despite allowing base runners in all but one inning, only to walk the bases full ahead of Barton's single. Gorzelanny threw only 49 of his 94 pitches for strikes, with the wildness (seven walks) forcing him out of the game even though he gave up only two singles in five innings.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 4

At Los Angeles, Jeff Salazar hit a two-run homer and Conor Jackson also had a pair of RBIs, leading Arizona to a win over Los Angeles.

Edgar Gonzalez (1-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings with two walks and a strikeout. Brandon Lyon pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save in eight attempts.

Giants 1, Padres 0

At San Diego, Rich Aurilia homered off Chris Young in the seventh inning to keep Tim Lincecum perfect this season and give San Francisco a win over the Padres, who have lost eight of nine.

Young (1-2) allowed two hits in seven innings while striking out 10 for San Diego.

Lincecum (4-0) extended his scoreless streak to 16 1-3 innings and lowered his ERA to 1.23. He allowed four hits in 6 1-3 innings, struck out nine and walked five. Brian Wilson pitched the ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

Goodell says he will approach Walsh material with open mind



NEW YORK
(AP)—Roger

Goodell is fully prepared to crack down again on the New England Patriots if his meeting with Matt Walsh uncovers a tape made of the St. Louis Rams' final walkthrough practice before the 2002 Super Bowl.

"Taping a walkthrough is much different from what I punished them for," the NFL commissioner said Thursday at a meeting of a group representing the Associated Press Sports Editors.

After more than two months of negotiations, lawyers for the

league and Walsh, the former New England employee, finally reached agreement Wednesday on terms that will allow him to talk Goodell. They include an agreement by the Patriots not to sue Walsh and to pay his legal expenses and his airfare to New York from Hawaii, where he is now a golf pro.

Walsh's name first surfaced just before the Super Bowl, in which the Patriots were upset by the New York Giants after finishing the regular season 16-0 and winning two playoff games. Among the allegations was that the Patriots illegally taped the Rams' final walkthrough before

that title game, when New England, a two-touchdown underdog, upset St. Louis 20-17.

Five months before their loss to the Giants, New England coach Bill Belichick was fined \$500,000 and the team \$250,000 for taping the New York Jets' defensive signals during the season opener. The Patriots also lost their first-round pick in this weekend's draft.

Goodell said Thursday he has no idea what Walsh, who spent six years as a New England employee, has to offer than what the league already knows: Belichick had been taping defensive signals since first

becoming Patriots coach in 2000. He noted, however, that the league, which destroyed the tapes from the Jets game after reviewing them, had spoken to 50 people in connection with the case and that Walsh was the only one who asked for legal protection.

Belichick has emphatically denied taping the walkthrough. "I have never taped a practice, certainly not that one," New England's coach has said repeatedly.

Goodell said his mind is open on the subject.

On other matters, Goodell said:

■ He gave no guarantees to owner Jerry Jones or anyone from the Dallas Cowboys that he will reinstate Adam "Pacman" Jones, whom the Cowboys obtained in a trade with Tennessee on Wednesday. He expects to meet in June with Pacman Jones, who was suspended all of last season for multiple violations of the league's code of behavior.

■ He met this week with his players council and discussed the proposal that would require players' hair that reaches below their name tag being tucked under the helmet. "It would have to be done in a

way that would respect the uniform code and also respect players' rights."

■ The NFL is considering moving the draft from New York to other cities. Its contract with Radio City Music Hall, where it will be held this weekend, is in its last year.

■ He welcomes the plan by developer Edward P. Roski Jr. to build a 75,000-seat stadium in Los Angeles to help lure back the NFL, which hasn't had a team there since 1994. He noted, however, the league has no plans to expand and no current franchise seems in enough trouble to seek relocation.

16 from Nippon Turtle Club to join SAIWAI event

SAIPAN WALKING



ASSOCIATION INC.

SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day set for May 11 along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

According to Saipan Walking Association vice president Yoichi Matsumura the Nippon Turtle Club will be led by 86-year-old Jo Izuma, who has been participating in the World Walking Day event the past several years.

Named after former first

lady Sophia Tenorio, SOPHIA stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure, while World Walking Day was initiated by the International Federation of Popular Sports and is celebrated in the month of May by IVV member countries and direct member

clubs around the world.

The SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day will offer both 5- and 10-kilometer routes and will have a 7am start time.

Last year, the World Walking Day Walk attracted 102 participants, 20 of which were

members of the Nippon Turtle Association.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day. The IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea,

Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about SAIWAI and its future events, contact Mario at 322-8876, Hiroko at 322-8781, or Bea at 285-1694. *(Mark Rabago)*

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	15	9	.625	—
Baltimore	13	9	.591	1
New York	12	11	.522	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	11	11	.500	3
Toronto	10	13	.435	4 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	12	9	.571	—
Cleveland	10	12	.455	2 1/2
Minnesota	10	12	.455	2 1/2
Detroit	10	13	.435	3
Kansas City	9	13	.409	3 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	14	9	.609	—
Oakland	14	9	.609	—
Seattle	11	12	.478	3
Texas	7	16	.304	7
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Florida	13	9	.591	—
New York	11	10	.524	1 1/2
Philadelphia	12	11	.522	1 1/2
Atlanta	11	11	.500	2
Washington	7	16	.304	6 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	15	7	.682	—
St. Louis	14	9	.609	1 1/2
Milwaukee	13	9	.591	2
Houston	11	12	.478	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	9	13	.409	6
Cincinnati	9	14	.391	6 1/2
West Division				
Arizona	16	6	.727	—
Colorado	10	12	.455	6
San Francisco	10	13	.435	6 1/2
Los Angeles	9	13	.409	7
San Diego	9	14	.391	7 1/2

Yesterday's Games	
Detroit 8, Texas 2	
L.A. Angels 7, Boston 5	
Oakland 11, Minnesota 2	
Cleveland 9, Kansas City 6st game	
Cleveland 2, Kansas City 0nd game	
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 3	
Chicago White Sox 7, N.Y. Yankees 6	
Baltimore 8, Seattle 7	
Houston 5, Cincinnati 3	
Philadelphia 3, Milwaukee 1	
Colorado 4, Chicago Cubs 2	
St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 2	
Atlanta 7, Florida 4	
Washington 10, N.Y. Mets 5	
San Francisco 1, San Diego 0	
Arizona 6, L.A. Dodgers 4	

BYRON NELSON SCORES

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Scores Thursday from the EDS Byron Nelson Championship, a \$6.4 million (€4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,166-yard, par-70 (35-35) TPC Four Seasons Resort:

FIRST ROUND		
Mathew Goggin	33-34	67
Ryan Moore	34-33	67
Eric Axley	32-35	67
Kevin Sutherland	35-33	68
Jesper Parnevik	35-33	68
Briny Baird	34-34	68
Adam Scott	35-33	68
Shaun Micheel	33-35	68
Ian Poulter	35-33	68
Dustin Johnson	33-35	68
Parker McLachlin	34-34	68
Jeff Gove	36-33	69
Tag Ridings	33-36	69
Charley Hoffman	34-35	69
Johnson Wagner	36-33	69
Cliff Kresge	35-34	69
Roland Thatcher	32-37	69
Alejandro Canizares	30-39	69
Sean O'Hair	35-34	69
Tommy Armour III	30-39	69
Michael Bradley	37-32	69
Mark Hensby	35-34	69
Nicholas Thompson	35-34	69
Craig Kanada	34-35	69
Shigeki Maruyama	34-36	70
Scott McCarron	34-36	70
Joe Durant	35-35	70
Troy Matteson	34-36	70
Dudley Hart	36-34	70
Michael Sim	35-35	70
Y.E. Yang	35-35	70
Richard S. Johnson	34-36	70
Steve Allan	34-36	70
Joe Ogilvie	35-35	70
Kent Jones	35-35	70
Ken Duke	34-36	70
Stuart Deane	35-35	70
Jeff Quinney	34-37	71
Kevin Na	37-34	71
Matt Kuchar	36-35	71
Charlie Wi	36-35	71

By The Associated Press

MR. UNORTHODOX

From Page 28

set later this year.

“I’ve been going to Saipan Country Club four times a week from Tuesday to Friday. Aside from the walking and conditioning, I’ve been trying to continue to work on different shots,” Wabol said when asked how he prepared for today’s event.

“Anything can happen now.

ESPINO

From Page 28

Hyatt Regency Saipan, Robert Lorren and Tommy Kennington of Pacific Islands Club, Richard Borja and Pyke Sabino of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan-Saipan Grand Hotel, Emeterio Brigino and Miguel Sicad of Aqua Resort Club, Aries Cordero of Micronesia Brokers Inc.-Aquarius Beach Tower, Andy Estepha and Ferman Calayag of Hafadai Beach Hotel, and Bagting and Alvin Palma of World Resort.

SILVER

From Page 28

want to do both [Tinian Triathlon and Silver Streak]. See you on June 21.”

The race starts at 6am in front of the DFS Galleria main entrance on Beach Road where runners will run southward and turn around at the World War II Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road.

The entrance fee is \$10 and forms can be collected at the DFS Galleria Customer Information Counter located at the north entrance from 10am to 10:30pm every day.

BYNUM

From Page 28

they’re not jumping over the Lakers’ backs to take 34 offensive rebounds in two games.

Bynum was a top 10 rebounder and shot blocker so the day they get him back, all that’s over.

Coming off the bench for the first 10 games, Bynum still averaged 11 points and 11 rebounds in November, taking it to 13-9 in December and 19-13 in the first six games of January before going down against Memphis.

The Lakers were 24-11 at that point, despite a difficult early schedule.

You may remember Bryant wasn’t in the best frame of mind, trying to put together a trade to Chicago right up to the opener before resigning himself

They’re just too many good golfers out there,” he said.

Wabol won last year’s Championship Flight after firing a 77 built around a 39 in the front and a 38 in the back. The five-over-par score was good enough to hold back veteran par-busters that included Hardwicke, Taylor, and Park, as well as Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho, George “Joji” Taguchi, Andy Nepaial, Danny Singh, Paul Camacho, and Sasaki Oliver.

The 6th Annual NMC Foun-

Division of Sports and Recreation Joe Lizama, Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar, and BANMI Referees Association president Rufino Aguon were also acknowledged by Espino for all their help as well as the 2008 HANMI Cup table officials led by head statistician Andrew Mesina.

Last but not the least, Espino also said the 2007 and 2008 editions of the HANMI Cup wouldn’t have been possible without the support of Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana

Payments for registration can be made from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Proceeds of the annual fun run will be donated to a local charity organization. Final registration will be at 5am on June 21.

The first 175 finishers will receive a free T-shirt and there will be prizes for the top male and female finishers as well as age group winners.

The fun run memorializes former DFS Galleria president Tom Picarro, who served from 1979 to 1992. The racecourse follows the same route Picarro runs along Beach Road as he waves to passers by.

BYNUM

From Page 28

to starting the season here—which wasn’t the same thing as promising to stay for the whole thing (“I’m not Nostradamus.”)

Bryant has an iron will so if he’s going the right way, there is little in nature that can stop him. Unfortunately, when he’s not, there’s also little that can stop him and at that point the arrow was definitely pointing to “elsewhere.”

If Bynum hadn’t improved and the Lakers had started, say, 15-20 (they closed the season before 16-27 as Andrew hit the wall) and had then gone 4-5, as they did before acquiring Pau Gasol Feb. 1, they would have been 19-25, No. 10 in the West, 5 1/2 games out of the No. 8 playoff spot.

Impressed as Bryant would have been at getting Gasol, would that have been enough to keep Kobe if they had

dation Open, which will have a shotgun start of 7am today, will adopt a medal play format and utilize a special double Peoria on all men’s flights.

In addition to first, second, and third place prizes for the flights, the tournament will include hole-in-one prizes.

The lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one shot has a chance at winning a 2008 Mazda 3, courtesy of Triple J; or \$25,000 in cash from Bank of Hawaii; or another

Islands chair Lynn A. Knight.

After winning the pennant with a league-best 11-1 record, Fiesta-Grand capped the season with an 87-72 title win over Pacific Islands Club in the do-or-die championship last April 5 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aside from winning the pennant and the overall championship, Fiesta-Grand’s 1-2 punch of Ryan Sanciangco and Elmer Esdreton won the regular season and finals MVP, respectively.

In the statistical race, Sanciangco was tops in scoring (28.4 ppg), Esdreton was the league’s

“He had a great head of white hair and that is where we got the name Silver Streak,” Mojica said.

For more information about the Silver Streak, call Mojica at 236-2540 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530.

Last year, 130 runners between the ages of one and 77 years old took part in the Silver Streak.

Track star Nate Mateo and Mamiko Oshima were the fastest male and female runners as the duo captured the men’s and women’s title with respective times of 26:46 and 28:58.

Among the top males were

missed the playoffs?

Let’s just say the Lakers are glad they never had to find out.

On a personal note, I want to add my own thanks to Andrew for all the fun I’ve had since calling him a “Greg Oden-level prospect” last season.

I then spent months arguing with everyone I knew, not that this represented any change for me.

The one I’ll never forget was with Mychal Thompson, a friend of Kevin Garnett who’d have carried Andrew to Minnesota on his shoulders to get KG, telling him that Bynum would be better than Robert Parish.

“CHIEF?” shrieked Mychal. “CHIEF?”

Of course, Parish is in the Hall of Fame and Bynum does have only 78 career starts.

Interestingly, Jackson, who never thought Andrew would

top assist man (4.9 apg), most accurate free throw shooter (76 percent), and top marksman from the 3-point territory (41 triples), PIC’s Derrick Tudela was the rebounding king (9.2 rpg), Vinas was the Sultan of Swipe (3.3 spg), and Edmark Mendoza of Hyatt Regency led the blocked shots department.

Espino also adjudged Aqua Resort as the winner of the Team Sportsmanship Award after the inaugural season’s champions continued to play despite the death of team heart-and-soul Rick Alegre during their game against Hyatt Regency last Feb. 13.

age division winners Andrew Kimball (5-10), Mathew Mancao (11-20), Jerson Villamor (21-30), Tamio Nishikido (31-40), Sathiya Kalarikkal (41-50), Chang Whan Jang (51-60), Bruce MacMillan (61-70), and ageless wonder John Joyner of the 71-and-over category.

The fastest women age groupers were youngster Soleil Lamar (5-10), Melissa Halaby (11-20), former PIC Clubmate Miek Carey (21-30), triathlete Kimiko Hasegawa (31-40), Irma Halaby (41-50), the unstoppable Monica Yamaguchi (51-60), Aenaida Tydingco (61-70), and Donna White (71-Over).

happen fast enough to impact Bryant’s career here (or Phil’s) always recognized Andrew’s upside.

Early last season with Bynum just starting to show flashes starting in place of the injured Kwame Brown, I asked Phil if he would trade Andrew for Garnett.

“How old is Garnett?” Phil mused.

He never did answer but with the Lakers’ preoccupation with Bryant’s window, they did offer Bynum and Lamar Odom for Garnett before Minnesota opted for the Boston package.

It never occurred to anyone when the news broke that Garnett was going to Boston that this might one day be celebrated as a holiday in Lakerdom.

As you may have noticed, things can change fast around here.



McGrady, Rockets rally past Jazz in Game 3

Tracy McGrady snapped out of his fourth-quarter slump and scored seven of his 27 points in the final period, leading Houston to a 94-92 victory over Utah on Thursday night that gave the Rockets life in a series that could have been headed for a sweep. **25**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Angels rally with 4 runs in 7th to beat Red Sox

Joe Saunders pitched six solid innings and Gary Matthews Jr. singled in the go-ahead runs in a four-run seventh inning as the Los Angeles Angels came back to beat the Boston Red Sox 7-5 in the American League on Thursday. **26**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mr. Unorthodox goes for three-peat

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jess “Mr. Unorthodox” Wabol looks to complete a three-peat when the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open tees off this morning at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal won the past two stagings of the fund-raising event for the islands’ lone tertiary institution and Wabol said winning a third straight Championship Flight trophy today would be hard.

“I’ve been just trying to stay focus and positive in spite of all the challenges that will be there tomorrow,” he said during an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday morning at Cheap Charlie’s.

Asked who among Saipan’s top par-busters has the best chance of defeating him this year, he mentioned three—Jeff Taylor, Adamwicke, and Park Jounghoon.

Aside from the challenge brought forth by the three master stroke-ers, Wabol also



would not discount the tough course at the Kagman facility.

“The greens are going to be fast. That’s typical of Laolao’s system. If it’s major tournament they

make it hard for everybody. Your success will depend on how you approach the game tomorrow. If you three-putted, hole-out and move on to the next one. Hopefully you don’t do it again—that’s the only solution,” he said.

Wabol

is not only looking for a third straight NMC

Foundation Open crown, as a win today would keep alive his chances of sweeping all three major tournament in the Commonwealth after ruling the 2008 HANMI Charity Golf Tournament last April 5.

The Tournament of Champions is the final major golf tournament of the CNMI and is

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League coordinator Lito Espino, second from left, poses with Saipan World Resort general manager Hong Chul Shin, second from right, shortly after presenting him with a plaque of appreciation. Also in photo are the World Resort’s sports development program team manager Atoy Bagting, right, and player Dennis Vinas, this year’s Best and Steals and Mythical Five member.

Espino extends kudos to sponsors, supporters

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The coordinator of the 2nd Annual Inter-Hotel Basketball League recently extended his heartfelt appreciation to all the sponsors and supporters that made the 2008 season of the HANMI Cup a success.

Lito Espino, who is also president of the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, first and foremost thanked sponsors Kathryn

Barry of PTI, John Antenor Cruz of Titans Guam Chivas Life, Rusty Loyola of Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc., and Mando Guban of Western Sales Trading Company for their in-kind donations to the competition.

The Aqua Resort Club restaurant supervisor also gave kudos to all the general managers of participating hotels and their hard-working representatives, namely Chris Calub and Mike Umali of

See ESPINO on Page 27

By MARK HEISLER

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Bynum makes for bright Laker future

DENVER—Thanks for coming, Andrew.

Andrew Bynum’s season effectively ended last week with Phil Jackson calling his chance of returning this spring “remote,” which sounded so inevitable, it ran as a secondary item in Laker notebooks.

Bynum’s season lasted 35 games...the most important 35 for the Lakers since Shaquille O’Neal left.

Between Kobe Bryant’s rant about trading Bynum in May (“I mean, Jason Kidd, c’mon!”) and Jan. 13 when Bynum’s season was halted, he had turned Bryant around, from rage at management to respect for its judgment, from demanding a trade to a team that could win a title to realizing, like Dorothy in “The Wizard of Oz,” there was no place like home.

The night after Bynum was lost, Bryant ended months of cool detachment at their surprising start with the ten words that meant it was morning again in Lakerdom:

“We’re a championship-caliber team with him in the lineup.”

And so they were.

“Kobe recognized what his (Bynum’s) advance was this year,” says Jackson. “Obviously, there was a little trial and tribulation for a period of time we went through in training camp.

“But after that—hey, this is a facet of our game that we haven’t had in five years. There it is.”

Here’s how bright the Lakers’ future is: They’re still favored to win the West with Bynum gone.

Not that they don’t miss what he would bring—a lot—after two games of seeing the Denver Nuggets stroll down the lane and lay the ball up when

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‘Silver Streak’ moved to June 21

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Organizers of the 15th “Silver Streak” Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run moved the annual 4.2-kilometer walk/run from June 14 to June 21.

Event coordinator Wolf Mojica said they decided to move the annual fun run in order to avoid a conflict with the Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon on June 14, Saturday.

“Because I want to make sure that everyone that wants to participate in the Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run can participate, I have moved the event to the week following the Tinian Turquoise Triathlon,” said Mojica.

“So those of you that mentioned you

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Jess “Mr. Unorthodox” Wabol practices on the driving range at Cheap Charlie’s a day before attempting a three-peat in the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open set at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

MARK RABAGO